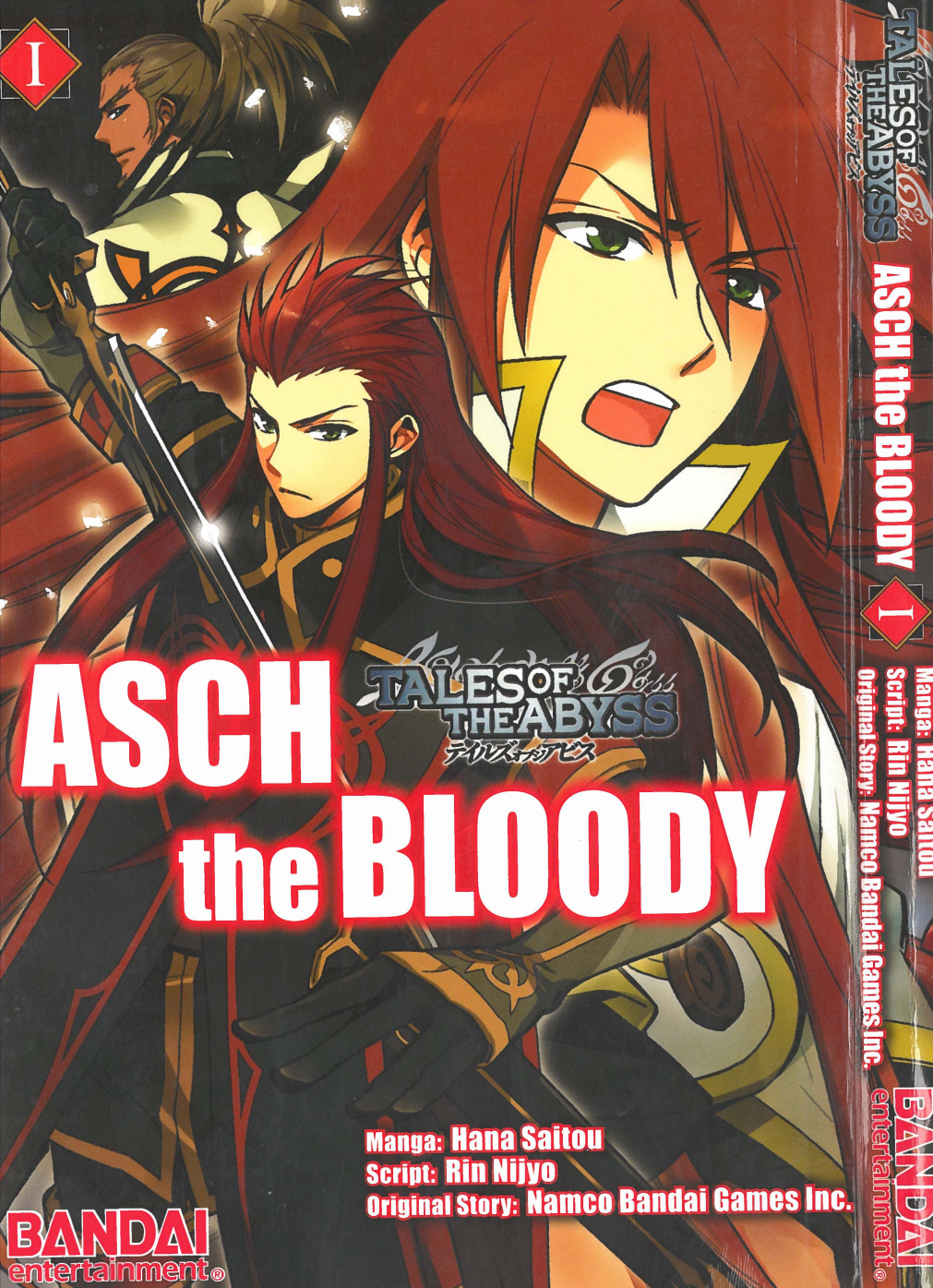
I
TALES OF THE ABYSS
テイルズオブアビス
ASCH the BLOODY
Manga: Hana Saitou
Script: Rin Nijyo
Original Story: Namco Bandai Games Inc.
BANDAI entertainment

CHAPTER 1: REPLICA

DO SHUUN
HUMPH.
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE ON INTRODUC-TIONS...
My name is Asch.
ZLMM...

I
I am a man who abandoned his past.
テイルズ
鮮血のアッシュ
オブ
TALES OF THE ABYSS
テイルズオブジアビス
ASCH THE BLOODY
MANGA BY HANA SAITOU, SCENARIO BY RIN NIJYO, ORIGINAL WORK BY BANDAI NAMCO GAMES

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TALES OF THE ABYSS

テイルズオブジアビス

ASCH THE BLOODY

MALKUTH TERRITORY, EAST RUGNICA PLAINS...
KH... WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE--
GYAAAA!
SHLAKK
IT'S PRETTY HEARTLESS TO MURDER ANYBODY WHO SIMPLY SEES US.
BUT THE PUBLIC WOULD SURE BE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT THEIR RELIGIOUS LEADERS ARE DOING THIS!

I HAVE... MY REPORT...
TMP TMP
EVEN SO...
MUST WE SIX GOD GENERALS ALL MOVE IN CONCERT?
..... IT'S OUR DUTY. WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.
WE CAN'T LEAVE WITNESSES!
VLUNN
THE LANDSHIP THAT HAS MASTER ION ABOARD IS... HEADING SOUTH TOWARD KIMLASCA!

ZLA ATS
AS LONG AS WE FOLLOW ORDERS, WE'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING.
!!
KIINN
..... CUT THE COMPLAINTS!
LET'S MOVE!
SHAKK

THIS IS JUST THE FIRST MOVE IN THE MISSION TO RECAPTURE FON MASTER ION!!

THE YEAR IS ND 2018. THE WORLD IS DIVIDED INTO TWO SPHERES OF POWER.

THE FONIC TECHNO-LOGICAL KINGDOM WHICH CONTROLS THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE OF AULDRANT, THE KINGDOM OF KIMLASCA-LANVAL-DEAR.
AND THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE TERRITORY WHERE THE FONIC ARTES WERE DEVELOPED, THE MALKUTH EMPIRE.
FOR MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY, THESE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE FOUGHT EACH OTHER OVER FONSTONES.
AND THE PEOPLE WERE FORCED TO GO TO WAR.

IT'S BEEN FIFTEEN YEARS SINCE THE END OF THE HOD WAR WAS IMPOSED.
AS TENSIONS CONTINUE BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS, A NEUTRAL GROUP...
...THE ORDER OF LORELEI, STANDS AS PEACEKEEPERS.
NONE HAVE A MORE WEIGHTY RESPONSIBILITY.
GWOON
GWOON
GWOON
MASTER ION...

ゴウン…
GWOON
ゴウン…
GWOON
I KNOW.
I HAVE NO WISH FOR WAR.
AND SO I'LL DELIVER THIS IMPERIAL PEACE INITIATIVE.
キリ
GRIMP
ゴオオオオオオ…
GWOOOOOO…
GRAND MAESTRO MOHS!
FON MASTER ION IS NOW UNDER THE PROTECTION OF JADE THE NECROMANCER OF THE MALKUTH IMPERIAL FORCES.
THEY'RE MAKING THEIR WAY TO KIMLASCA IN A LAND DREADNAUGHT !!

KH... DAMN MALKUTHIANS!
THEY OUTFLANKED ME!
GRND
WE MUST START A WAR AS PER THE SCORE...
... TO GUIDE HUMANITY TO THE "AGE OF UNPRECEDENTED PROSPERITY" TO COME!
YULIA'S SCORE...
... WILL BE PROTECTED BY THESE VERY HANDS!!

HMPH! WE NEED NOT FEAR.
IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WE HAVE FON MASTER ION IN CUSTODY.
THE MOST FRIGHTENING MEMBERS OF MY ORDER...
... THE SIX GOD GENERALS, ARE HEADING TOWARD HIM AT THIS MOMENT!
FWAFF
FWAFF
WH- WHAT'S THAT?!
A HUGE FLOCK OF FLYING MONSTERS ?!
UP THERE ...
IS A PERSON RIDING ON ONE...?!
FLAFF
FLAFF

WE MUST CAPTURE FON MASTER ION ON MALKUTH TERRITORY !!
YOU KNOW THE PLAN?!
FLAFF
FLAFF
YOU GUYS HANDLE THE BATTLE, OKAY?
FLAFF
FLAFF
STRANGE...
.....

TARGET SIGHTED!
I UNDERSTAND THIS IS VITAL.
HOWEVER, IS THIS TRULY A MISSION THAT NEEDS ALL SIX GOD GENERALS TO BE RIPPED FROM THEIR TERRITORIES AND WORKING TOGETHER?
.....
DOO OOM!
IT SEEMS THEY'VE SIGHTED US AS WELL.
LET'S GO IN!
GWOOOOOO

THE IRON HAMMER OF LIGHT...
LIMITED!
GYAAH!!
DWOO
AAAAAAH!
VWUUU
KEEEN
KEEEN—
VWUUU
VWUUU

NOW YOU DIE!!
VWONN
HUMPH!
WHA...
GAHH...
ZLTCH!

?!
THEY TOOK OUT LARGO ...?!
ASCH! YOU TAKE THE BRIDGE!
BUT NEVER FORGET WHAT OUR TRUE GOAL IS HERE!
THESE ARE THE GENERAL'S ORDERS! DO NOT FAIL!!
BLAMM
BLAMM
SHAKEEN
PUT A LID ON IT! I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING!

SHK
ZLASSH
GYAA!!
"GRAND MAESTRO MOHS HOLDS THIS SPECIAL DIVISION IN HIGH HONOR."
"WELL DONE, ASCH!"
.....
PLIP
PLIP
DAMMIT!
KLNCH
I KNOW WHO'S BEHIND THIS MISSION ...
VAN'S GIVING THE ORDERS HERE, RIGHT?!

THE ONE ARTFULLY MANIPULATING THE ORDER OF LORELEI...
...AS WELL AS BRINGING TOGETHER THE SIX GOD GENERALS. VAN, THAT WAS YOU.
EVERYONE RESPECTS AND ADMIRES YOUR ABILITIES.
"THIS WORLD IS CHAINED TO THE SCORE, AND WE MUST CHANGE THAT!"
"AND THAT'S WHY, ASCH..."
"...I NEED YOU!"

"I NEED YOU, ASCH..."
"...TO CHANGE THE ENTIRE WORLD!"
TSK ...
WOBBLE
ZLATS
URK
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE PLOTTING, BUT...
...NOW, ALL I CAN DO...
...IS TRUST YOU...!!
COMMANDER, WE'VE TAKEN THE BRIDGE!
!

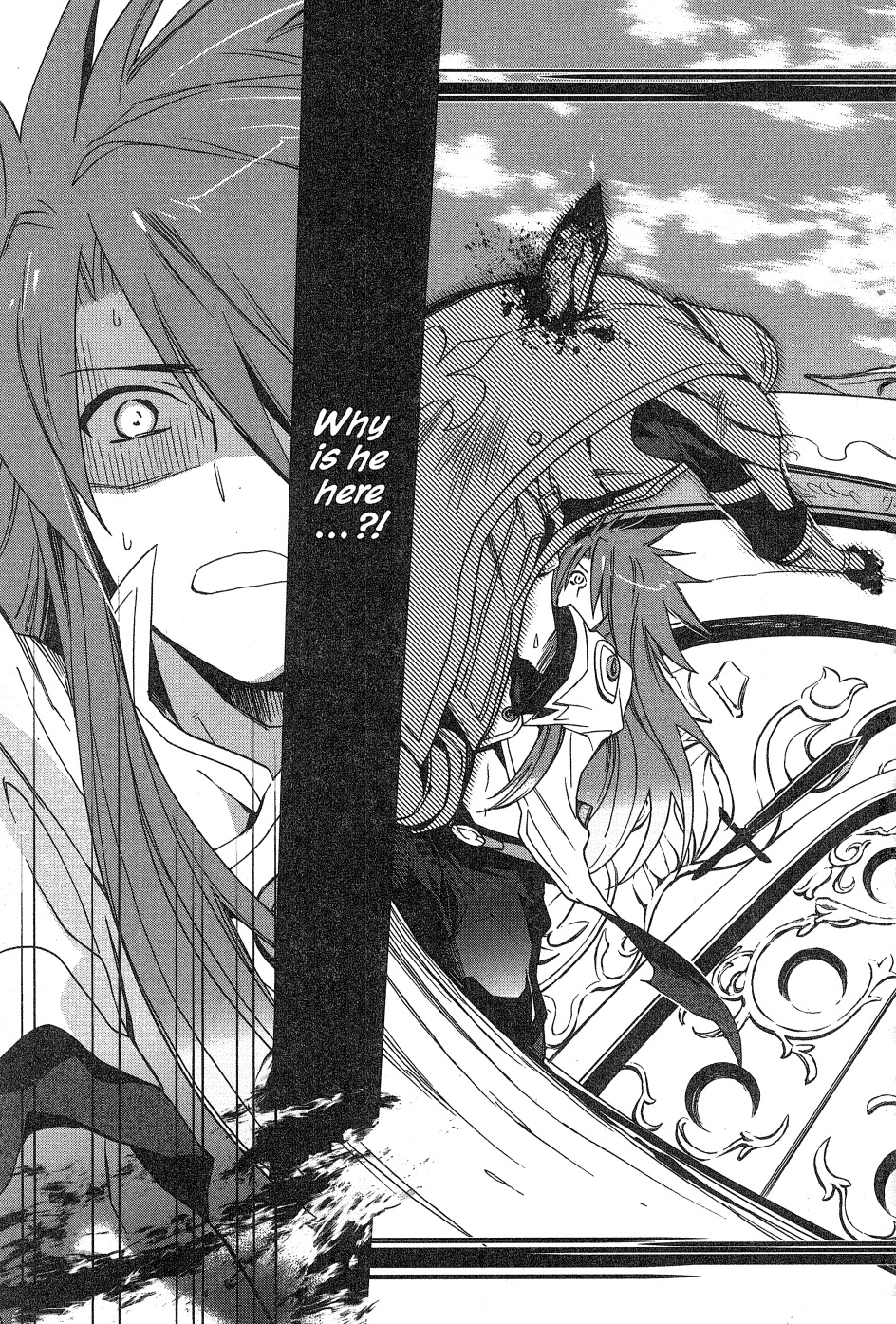
WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?
ALL DEFEATED ...?
OH, HOW... PATHETIC!
BWAMM
TMP
SHK
KH...! STAY AWAY !!
WHO ...?
That red hair...
..... Hm?

DO KAM
KH...
!!!
Why...
B-BMP
B-BMP
Why is he here?
EEÉ!

WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?!
MY REPLICA ...
HE'S THE ONE WHO TOOK AWAY EVERYTHING I WAS!
GWOOOOO

WE'VE CAPTURED FON MASTER ION IN THE REAR OF THE SHIP!
GOOD! WE'LL HANDLE THE REST.
CLAMOR
STAY ON GUARD!
THE NECRO-MANCER... AND THE REPLICA... ARE HERE!!
ASCH...!!
What does it mean?
.....
CHAPTER 2
DOUBT

The very replica that took everything I once was...


Why is he here ...?!

A...
SHLINK
AAAA...
WHAT HAPPENED?!
PSSH
TREMBL
I...I JUST... KILLED HIM...
I JUST...
TREMBL
BA-BUMP

PITIFUL!
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?!
LUKE!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
THAT FREAK TOOK MY NAME?!
HE'S TRYING TO BE LUKE FON FABRE?!

THIS IS A JOKE!!
KACH
IF YOU'RE THAT AFRAID OF KILLING PEOPLE ...
THEN THROW AWAY YOUR USELESS BLADE!
YOU POOR EXCUSE FOR A MAN ...!!

KEE
KEE
KEE
UWAAH!
KEEEEN
KYAA!
DM
DM
STMP
!!

YOU'RE NOTHING IF NOT DOGGED.
HMPH!
I EXPECTED THAT FROM THE GREAT NECROMANCER.
Jade Curtiss ...
So you're the one who stabbed Largo. That makes sense...!

.....
YOU'RE...
SST
KACHANK
KACHANK
COMMAND-
ER!
WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO
WITH
THESE
ONES?

..... KILL THEM.
WAIT, ASCH!
KA KK
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE GENERAL'S ORDERS?
OR ARE YOU DETERMINED TO GET YOUR WAY DESPITE ORDERS?

.....
TSK!
BIND THEM AND SHUT THEM UP INSIDE SOME CABIN!
GLARE

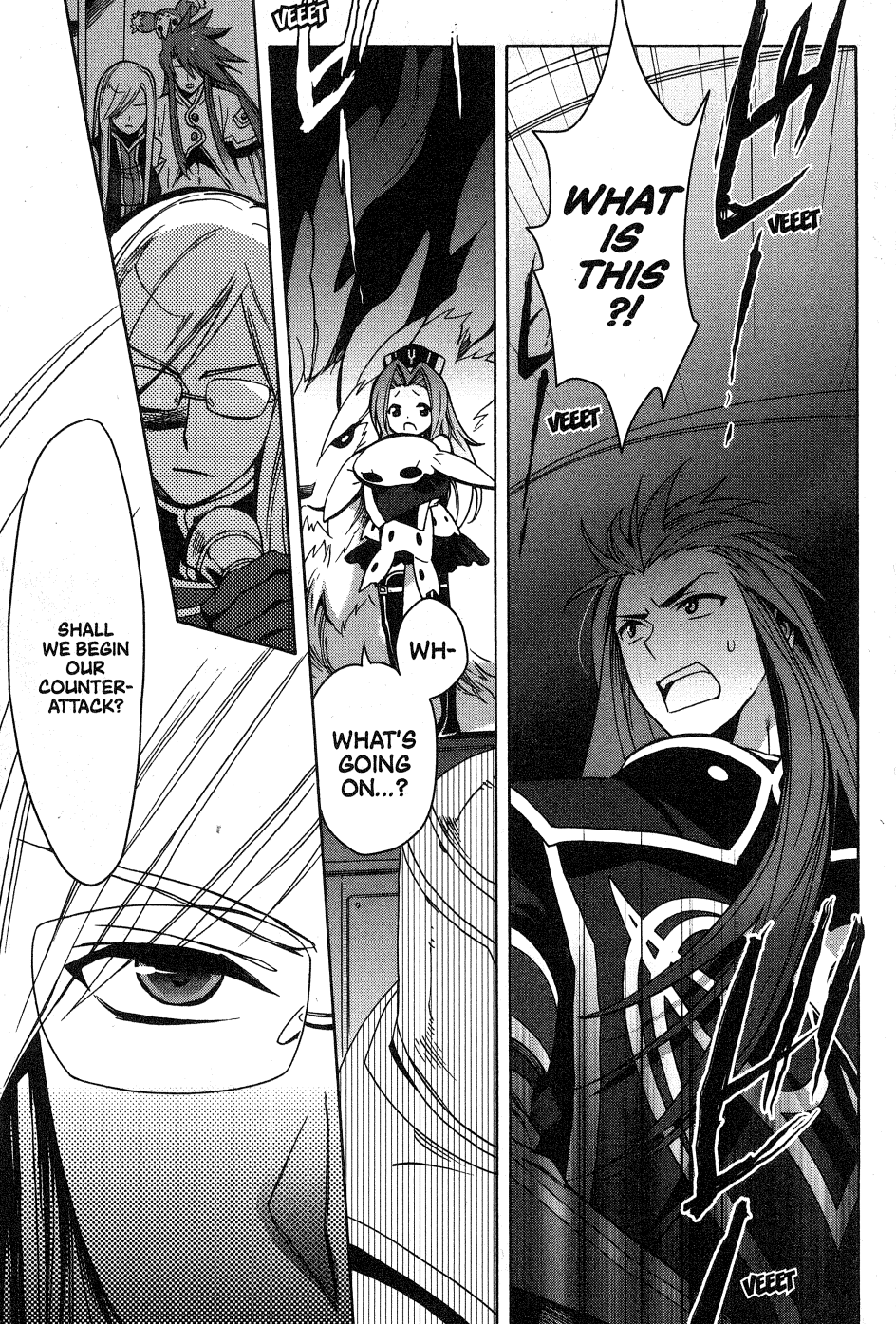
STMP
THE GOAL OF THIS MISSION IS, FIRST AND FOREMOST, THE CAPTURE OF FON MASTER ION!
STMP
STMP
I THINK YOU KNOW THAT ALREADY.
EVEN IF YOU COME ACROSS THAT DEFECTIVE CREATURE, YOU ARE TO MAKE NO INDISCREET MOVES!
THOSE ARE THE GENERAL'S ORDERS!
SLAMM
IS EVERYTHING PREPARED?
YES, MA'AM!
WHATEVER HAPPENS WITH ASCH...
...WE MUST ACCOMPLISH OUR GOAL!

THAT DAMNED REPLICA...
...WAS SUPPOSED TO BE RESTRICTED TO THE MANSION GROUNDS, WASN'T HE?!
GRRRNN
DAMMIT ...!
BA AMM
.....
HA-HH
HA-HH
IT'S BEEN SEVEN YEARS...

HE HAD MY FACE...
...MY HAIR...
HOW CAN HE BE MY REPLICA...
...AND BE SUCH A PATHETIC EXCUSE FOR A MAN...!

THE REMAINS OF THE "LIGHT OF THE SACRED FLAME"... ASHES ...
WHAT POSSIBLE VALUE IS THERE IN KEEPING HIM ALIVE?!
..... HE'S TRASH!
CHIK
VAN!!
And because my place in life was stolen by him...
WAAA
OOOO

THAT DEFECTIVE TOOK EVERYTHING FROM ME...
HAHH...!
VEEET
VEEEET
VEEEET
!!
JZZT
JZZT
FPT


VEEET
WHAT IS THIS ?!
VEEET
VEEET
WH-
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
SHALL WE BEGIN OUR COUNTER-ATTACK?

SHUUUUUU
WHAT IN THE HELL IS HAPPENING HERE?!
DO KAHH
ALL THE FUNCTIONS ON BOARD THE SHIP HAVE STOPPED!
STOPPED ...?!
.....
FIND THE ROOT CAUSE NOW!
DMP

COMMANDER, IT LOOKS LIKE THE PORT HATCH IS OPENING!
STMP STMP
!
JADE THE NECROMANCER!!

ONLY HE COULD DO THIS!
KACHAK
カチャ

TSK!
DAMN REPLICA! ANOTHER EMBARRASS-ING SCENE...
.....
Ion?!

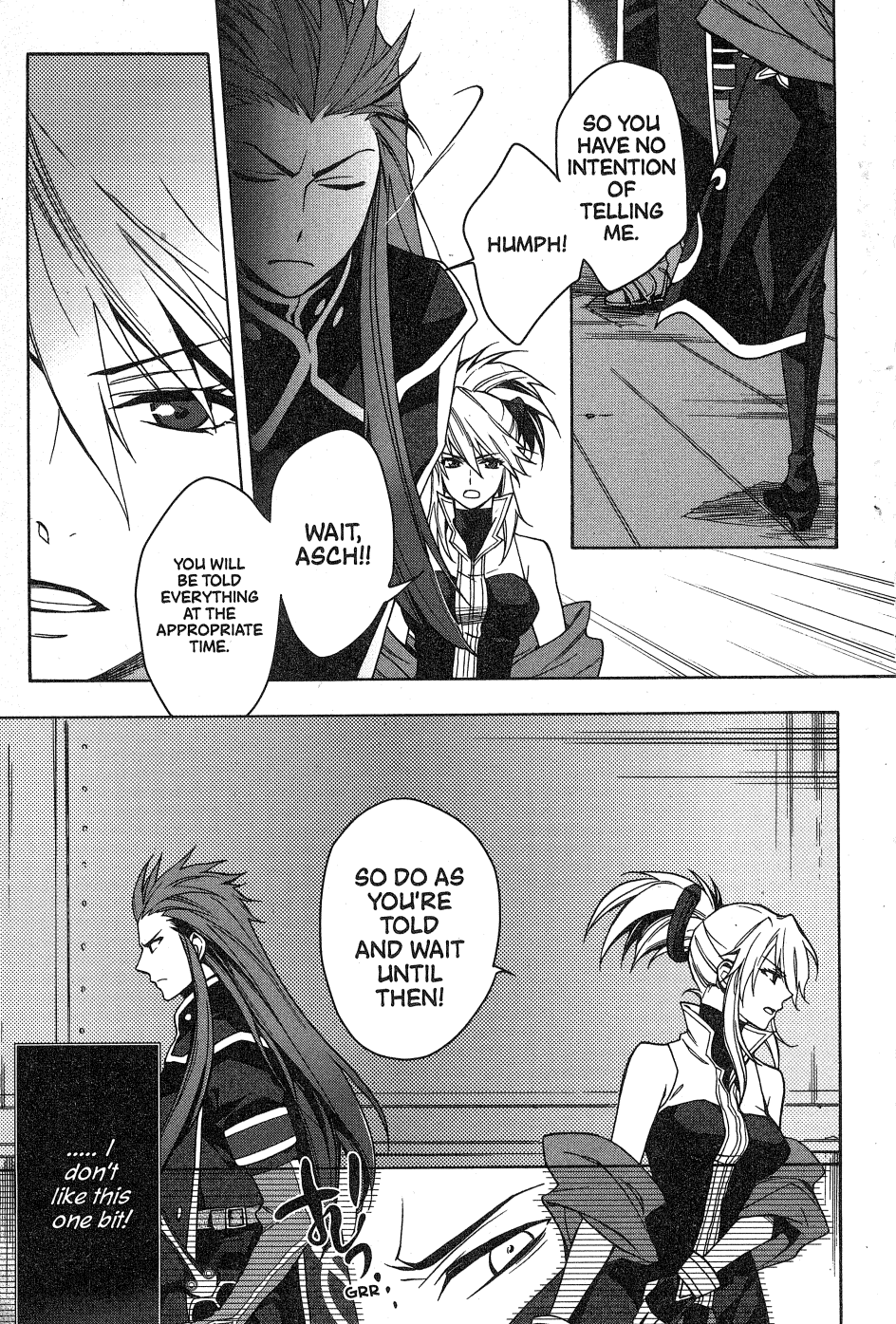
WHY WOULD SHE LEAD ION OUTSIDE...?
WHAT IS SHE DOING?!
OUR MISSION WAS TO CAPTURE ION AND BRING HIM TO DAATH!
WAS THERE MORE TO IT...?!
KH!
VAN, YOU ASS!

YOU NEVER TELL ME THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION !!
.....!!
VWAA
AH!

..... HE'S...
BLAM
KH!!
BLAM
GEHH...
KEEN
COMMAND-ER!
THE ONLY WAY IN OR OUT IS THE PORT HATCH!
COMMAND-ER!
KEEN
URN ...

WE MUST GET FAR FROM HERE WHILE WE HAVE THE CHANCE!
PSS
SHUU
..... THEY OVER-POWERED US...
KAK
KAK
KAK
TSK
MASTER ION...

THE MISSION GOAL WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE CAPTURE OF ION...
...AND TO FERMENT THE WAR JUST AS FORESEEN IN THE SCORE. BUT THAT WASN'T ALL, WAS IT?
IT IS NONE OF YOUR CONCERN.
!
KAK


SO YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF TELLING ME.
HUMPH!
WAIT, ASCH!!
YOU WILL BE TOLD EVERYTHING AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.
SO DO AS YOU'RE TOLD AND WAIT UNTIL THEN!
GRR
..... I don't like this one bit!

And so...
All I can do is check things out for myself!
SHK SHK
AFTER ALL, I'VE JUST FOUND A PAWN THAT I THINK I CAN USE.
HEH

CHAPTER 3
ANTINOMY
I THINK THEY LEFT NO ONE ALIVE.
I DOUBT THEY WOULD WANT ANY LIVING WITNESSES.
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MEN MANNING THE LANDSHIP?
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY? YOU'RE WEAKER THAN I THOUGHT YOU'D BE...
HAHH
HAHH
I... I BEG YOUR FORGIVE-NESS...
..... BUT IT GOES AGAINST ORDERS ...
I GET THE FEELING YOU'VE BEEN DRAGGED INTO SOMETHING REALLY COMPLICATED, LUKE.
YEAH... NOT ONE GOOD THING HAS HAPPENED TO ME SINCE LEAVING THE MANSION!
I'M ALL FOR GETTING BACK TO BATICUL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
PRINCESS NATALIA IS WORRIED AND IS PRAYING FOR YOUR SAFE RETURN HOME.
GENERAL VAN IS ALSO SEARCHING FOR YOU.
HE MAY EVEN MEET UP WITH US IN KAITZUR.
MASTER VAN?!
ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO ATTACKED US...

THE SIX GOD GENERALS. AT LEAST FOUR WERE HERE COOPERATING IN THIS MISSION.
I KNOW THE SIX GOD GENERALS ARE PLACED UNDER VAN'S COMMAND...
...BUT I IMAGINE THAT THE ATTACK ORDERS THIS TIME CAME FROM MOHS...
WHAT ABOUT MASTER VAN?
WHAT ARE SIX GOD GENERALS?
SIX OF THE TOP ECHELON OF ORACLE.
LARGO THE BLACK LION, DIST THE DEMON...
...SYNC THE TEMPEST, ARIETTA THE WILD, LEGRETTA THE QUICK...
...AND ASCH THE BLOODY.
HMM ...?
.....
CONSIDERING ASCH THE BLOODY'S LOOKS...
...I DON'T LIKE TO THINK IT, BUT...

A SAFE HOUSE IN MALKUTH TERRITORY...
WILL YOU OR WON'T YOU? CHOOSE?
I THINK THAT PERHAPS...
...I SHALL TAKE UP YOUR SUGGESTION. I CONFESS A DEEP INTEREST IN IT MYSELF.
..... BUT IT GOES AGAINST ORDERS ...
IT'S A CHANCE FOR YOU TO GET YOUR REVENGE, RIGHT?
.....
NOD
くん

HEH. OUR WATCHDOG IS HARD AT WORK, I SEE.
KATAK
THIS IS MY ONLY CHANCE...
...BEFORE LUKE RETURNS TO BATICUL!!
IF WE MAKE USE OF THE EQUIPMENT IN CHORAL CASTLE, IT SHOULD WORK!
KACHAK
VAN...!!

What are you plotting ?!
I SWEAR I WILL FIND IT OUT...!

KAITZUR HARBOR...
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO STOP THE FOOL?
..... THERE IS NO CALL FOR ALARM.
ALL HE DID WAS SOME INVESTIGATION REGARDING THE REPLICA, CORRECT?
I DISLIKE INSUBORDI-NATION, HOWEVER...

THAT'S WHY I LET HIM LIVE, AFTER ALL.
HE WILL DO WHAT I NEED OF HIM.
ASCH WILL HELP WITH THE NEXT DAATHIC SEAL.
YOU HAVE THE ORDERS, DO YOU NOT, SYNC?
!
MASTER VAN!! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! THE SHIP'S ABOUT TO LEAVE PORT!
.....
YES...
DMP

ASCH...
FLAIL ABOUT AS YOU LIKE. IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD.
GWOON
GWOON
I FOUND YOU!!
SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK
AAA-ASCH !!
WAA AA!!
.....YOU'RE LATE.
AS YOU WISHED, I OPENED HIS MATCHED FON SLOTS!

YOU TWO TRULY ARE A SURPRISE! PERFECT ISOFONS!
SUCH PERFECTION IS HARD TO FIND!
I'M SHOCKED THAT VAN USED OUR RESEARCH TO CREATE THAT MONSTROSITY!
TREMBL
IF HE FEELS SO FREE, THEN I WILL DO MY OWN RESEARCH AS WELL!
TREMBL
TREMBL
SHK
COME TO THINK OF IT, ARIETTA IS NOW IN VAN'S CUSTODY.
I WAS AT THE END OF MY WITS.
BUT WHEN I FACTOR IN THE VALUE OF THE INFORMATION ...
AAAH HA HA HA
THIS IS MY CONNECTION TO THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE REPLICA.
NOW, HOW TO USE IT...?

SHOULD I FIRST GO TO BATICUL FOLLOWING THE REPLICA AND VAN?
..... TO BATICUL...
ASCH!
AH!
PEEEP
HERE. YOUR ORDERS.
PACH
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO HELP WITH THE NEXT DAATHIC SEAL.
!!

THE DAATHIC SEAL, YOU SAY?!
BATICUL, THE CAPITAL OF LIGHT OF THE KINGDOM OF KIMLASCA LANVALDEAR.
WHEN WE WORKS FOR YOU, MASTER, YOU PAY US GOOD!
IT MAKES US ALL THE MORE EAGER TO PULL IT OFF!

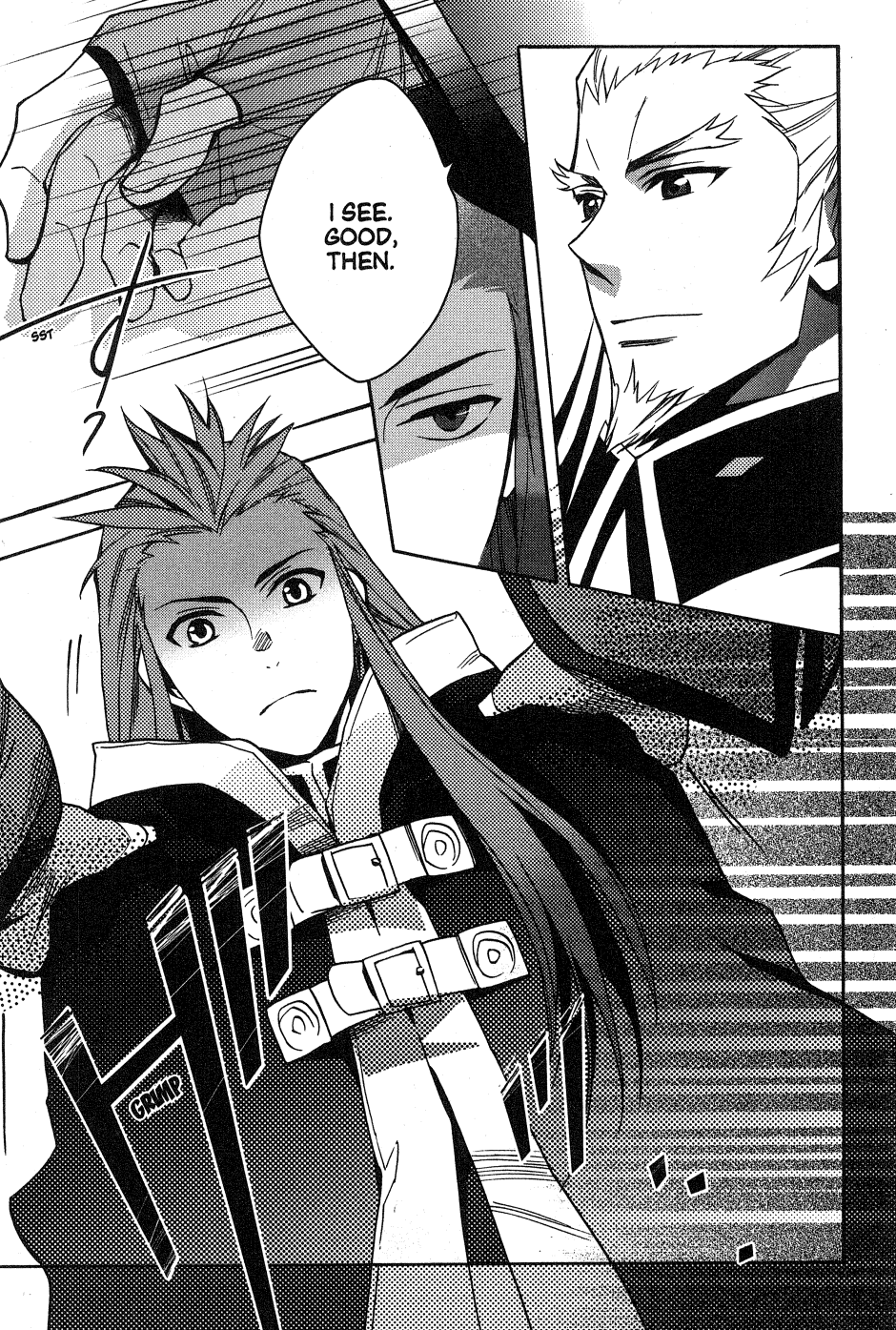
VAN...!
YEAH.
OH, I SAW GENERAL VAN ON A STREET CORNER BACK THERE.
HUMPH. TOMORROW MORNING. GET IT DONE!
CHATTER
CHATTER
FWAFF
SHIP
BATICUL...

...BUT AT THE SAME TIME...
...VAN, YOU STOLE FROM ME MY ONLY HOME.
Yes, Van freed me from being chained to the Score.
.....
KAK

SO IS WHAT YOU LOST SO GREAT ...?
AH!
KAK
.....
VAN...!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE FEELING NOSTALGIC WALKING THESE STREETS.
KAK
KAK

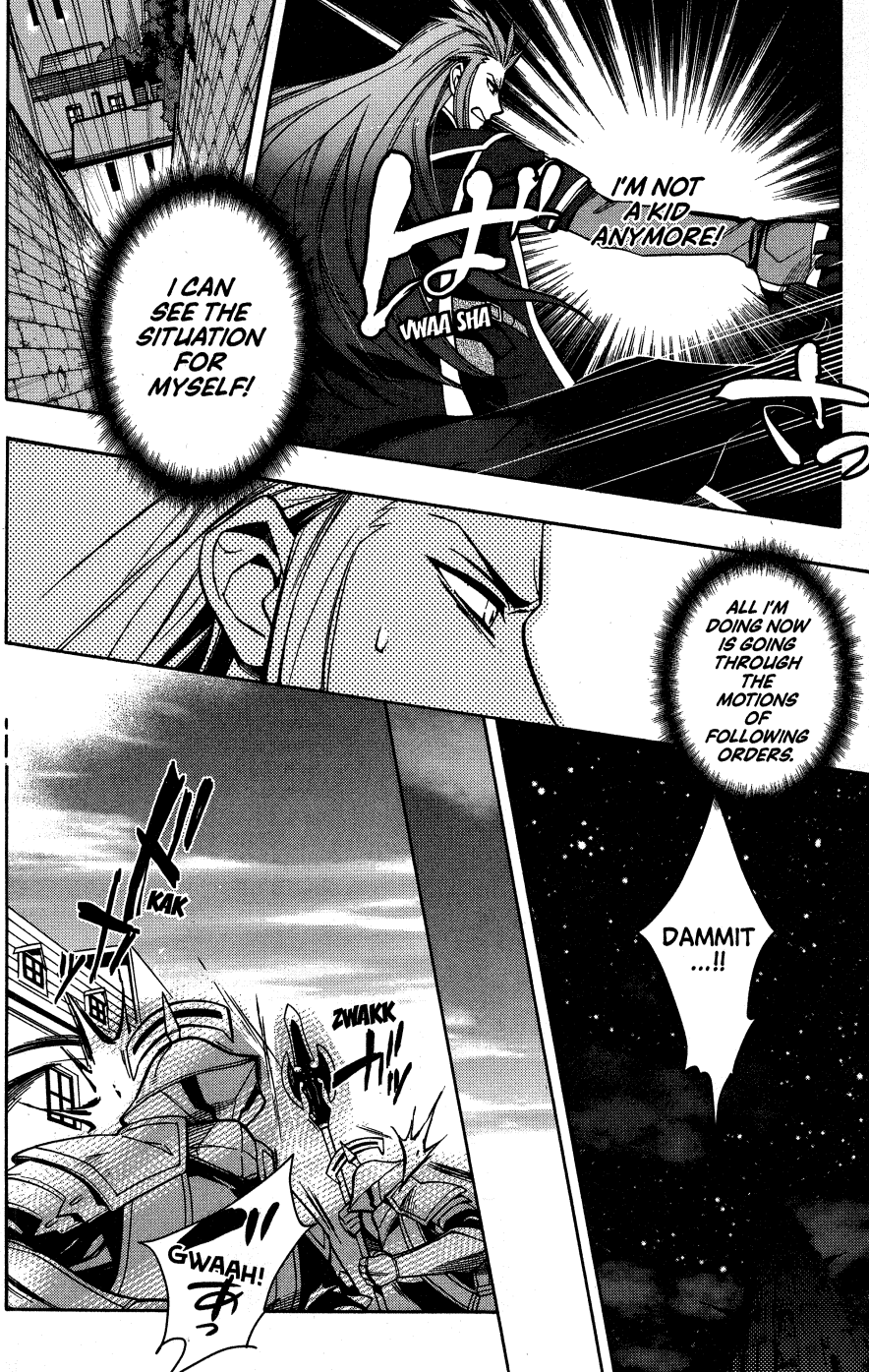
THE ONE WHO SAVED YOU FROM TERRIBLE EXPERIMENTS AND A FUTURE OF NOTHING BUT DESPAIR...
...WAS ME!
YOU KNOW THAT, ASCH.
.....!
I HEARD YOU CAME IN CONTACT WITH YOUR REPLICA.
!!

..... YES.
HEH HEH
HE'S A REAL FOOL, ISN'T HE?
RIGHT NOW AT THE MANSION, HE'S GOING ON ABOUT HOW HE'S GOING TO BE SOME GREAT HERO.
..... HMPH. WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
IT DISAPPOINTS ME THAT YOU ALLOWED...
...ION TO BE TAKEN FROM YOU BY THAT FOOLISH HUMAN FAILURE.
BUT THIS IS NO REASON TO PANIC.
WE WILL GET ION BACK SO HE CAN HELP US FULFILL OUR GOALS.
I'VE ALREADY SET A KIDNAPPING PLAN IN MOTION.


I SEE. GOOD, THEN.
SST
GRIP

DO YOU UNDERSTAND, ASCH?
I'M LEAVING THE ZAO RUINS TO YOUR GROUP.
I WILL MAKE USE OF LUKE AND PUT MY PLANS INTO ACTION AT AKZERIUTH.
THESE ARE ALL THINGS NECESSARY FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS WORLD!
YOU ARE NECESSARY TO THAT!!

..... I MUST GO.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
POFF
..... KH...
KLNCH!!


I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE!
VWAA SHA
I CAN SEE THE SITUATION FOR MYSELF!
ALL I'M DOING NOW IS GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF FOLLOWING ORDERS.
DAMMIT ...!!
KAK
ZWAKK
GWAAH!

WHUDD
WHUDD
FON MASTER ION, WILL YOU COME QUIETLY?
PLIP
PLIP
SHHHH HHH

SHHHH HHH
WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?
YOU SHOULD BE USED TO THIS FACE BY NOW!
.....
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, FON MASTER ION.
I SUPPOSE THAT THE REPLICA HAS DISCOVERED THE TRUTH AND IS PANICKING RIGHT NOW.
.....?!
SLPACH!

SST
GIVE ION BACK !!
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
GACHING
!!

YOU LITTLE...
GRNND
!!
EH ...?
GRAK
YOU?!
GRND
GRND
UWAA !!
SPLISH
SPLISH

YOU...
HAHH
YOU PIECE OF TRASH ...!!
HOW DO YOU, A LOWLY ARTIFICIAL THING, DARE POINT THE BLADE OF A SWORD AT ME...?!
SPLACH
SPLACH
LUKE !!
ASCH! ION COMES FIRST, HERE!
I KNOW THAT!
.....

?!
SPLISH
HE BROUGHT THEM WITH HIM...?
NATALIA
...

Everything I had should be gone now, but...
GWOOOOO
SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK
...there is one thing left. Memories I would rather have forgotten.
FEELING A BIT JEALOUS?
OOOO

SHHHH!
HA HA HA! HOW WOULD I KNOW?
..... OF WHAT?
FORGET IT... THOSE ARE THINGS YOU SHOULD HAVE ABANDONED ALREADY...!

CHAPTER 4
SECRET STRIFE
KAITZUR HARBOR
GENERAL, ARE YOU SURE HE SHOULD BE TAKING PART IN THIS?
HEH HEH... IT'LL BE FINE.
HE'S A WILD CARD, BUT ALLOWING HIM TO PARTAKE IN THE UNSEALING WILL GIVE HIM SOME SATISFACTION.
..... THERE ARE SOME IN THE ORDER TOO WHO HAVE SUSPICIONS AS TO WHAT WE'RE DOING.
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT ASCH TOO, LEGRETTA?
JUST LEAVE THEM BE.

OUR GREAT CAUSE IS NOT SOMETHING THAT CAN BE STOPPED SO EASILY.
I'VE SPENT SEVEN YEARS OF MY LIFE MAKING SURE OF IT.
VERY WELL. I WILL NOW MAKE MY WAY TO AKZERIUTH ALONG WITH THE ADVANCE TROOPS.
PLEASE BE CAREFUL.
YOU ARE INDISPENSABLE, IF I AM TO SEE MY IDEAL BECOME REALITY.
YOU MUST PLACE YOUR TRUST IN ME, ASCH!
KATAK

I HAVE A QUESTION!
WHAT IS "SEAL BREAKING" ?!
WHOOSH
.....

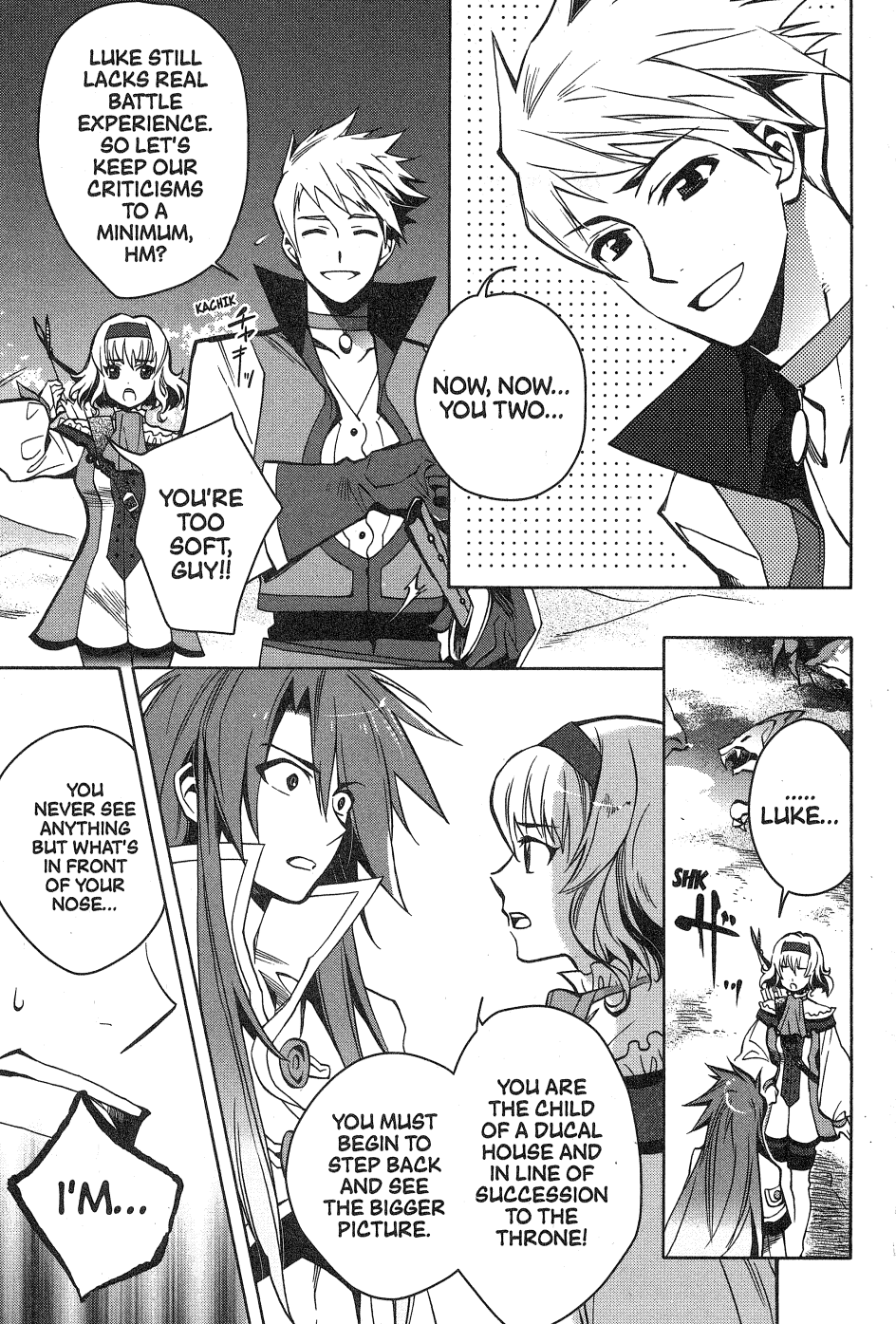
HEY ...!
YOU ARE ASCH, ARE YOU NOT?
I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THAT MYSELF.
JUST WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE TRYING TO DO.
GWOOOO
THE PEACE INITIATIVE FROM HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY, PEONY IX...
...HAS ALREADY BEEN DELIVERED TO THE KING OF KIMLASCA.
THERE IS NO REASON TO ABDUCT ME, EVEN IF YOU'RE INTENT ON STARTING A WAR.
THE MISSION IS TO BREAK THE SEAL.
!!
BUT WHEN I BREAK THE SEALS, NOTHING HAPPENS.
IT DIDN'T BEFORE EITHER, RIGHT?

Does "before" mean ...?!
YOU PEOPLE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING WITH WHAT'S BEHIND THE SEALS.
...BUT HERE YOU ARE...
.....
TSK!
SLAMM
THE PEACE INITIATIVE HAS ALREADY BEEN DELIVERED...
AND I ALREADY KNOW THAT AS A GESTURE OF PEACE, THE REPLICA RECEIVED ORDERS TO BE THE GOODWILL AMBASSADOR AND IS HEADING TO AKZERIUTH.

IF STARTING A WAR ISN'T VAN'S OBJECTIVE, THEN WHY WOULD THERE BE ANY REASON TO ABDUCT ION?
WAS THE ENTIRE REASON TO GATHER US SIX WAS TO BREAK THESE SEALS?
AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT ONLY FON MASTER ION CAN BREAK THEM...?!
..... I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE.
GWOOOO
HOW ABOUT I SHAKE THINGS UP A LITTLE BIT.
SST
I CAN USE HIM...

SHHT
SHHT
SHHT...
ANSWER ME!
HEY, REPLICA!
HYAAAH!!
HEY!
YOU TRASH!
ZU-ZLAT!
DID YOU SEE THAT?! I STOPPED IT MY-SELF!
WHUDD...

SIGHHHH
CHIK
HAHHH
HEH HEH...
YOUR SELF-CENTERED ACTIONS HAVE THROWN US OUT OF FORMATION.
URK!
WH-WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?! I JUST WANT US TO GET TO WHERE THE MASTER IS AS QUICK AS POSSIBLE...
MY BROTHER'S VESSEL IS STILL EN ROUTE TO AKZERIUTH.
RUSHING WON'T HELP.


LUKE STILL LACKS REAL BATTLE EXPERIENCE. SO LET'S KEEP OUR CRITICISMS TO A MINIMUM, HM?
KACHIK
NOW, NOW... YOU TWO...
YOU'RE TOO SOFT, GUY!!
.....LUKE...
SHIK
YOU NEVER SEE ANYTHING BUT WHAT'S IN FRONT OF YOUR NOSE...
YOU ARE THE CHILD OF A DUCAL HOUSE AND IN LINE OF SUCCESSION TO THE THRONE!
YOU MUST BEGIN TO STEP BACK AND SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE.
I'M...

I'M THE GOODWILL AMBASSADOR HERE, YOU KNOW!
SO... WHAT THE REST OF YOU HAVE TO DO IS SHUT UP AND DO AS I SAY!!
What kind of attitude is this...?!
Is this the result when someone takes my place...
...and spends seven years under royal tutelage?!
SHIT
SHIT
.....DAMMIT...!

DAMMIT! WHAT IS THIS?!
MASTER VAN TOLD ME THAT I WAS GOING TO BECOME A HERO!!
LET'S GO.
RIGHT NOW, THE RESCUE OF FON MASTER ION IS OUR TOP PRIORITY.
I'M...
I'M...
You idiot!
WHAT "HERO"?! WANDERING AROUND WITHOUT A THOUGHT IN YOUR HEAD!
TOO BAD FOR YOU, BUT...
LUKE? WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING'S WRONG!

SEVEN YEARS EARLIER ...
IN ND 2018, A YOUNG ONE, HEIR TO THE POWER OF LORELEI, WILL LEAD A GROUP HEADING TOWARD A MINING TOWN. THERE THE YOUNG ONE WILL...
IN FACT, THE CLOSED SCORE CONTINUES FROM THERE.
IT IS YOUR DESTINY TO DIE AT THAT POINT.
YOU ARE GOING TO YOUR DEATH. YOU WILL DIE TO SAVE ME...!!
YOU'RE KIDDING...

MY DEATH... IS IN THE SCORE...?
BUT I WANT TO SEE YOU LIVE!
THERE IS NO NEED TO FEAR.
I HAVE EXCHANGED YOU FOR A REPLICA AND PLACED IT IN THE MANSION.
HE WILL INHERIT THE DESTINY AND DEATH IN YOUR STEAD.
.....
The time Van was talking about is now approaching.
AND HE'S FOLLOWING THE SCORE PERFECTLY...
"LUKE" IS APPROACHING AKZERIUTH WHERE HE WILL DIE.

So go and live it up in your "Goodwill Ambassador" role.
AFTER ALL, YOU'LL SOON BE DEAD, YOU REPLICA BASTARD!!
I'm telling you that you don't have any time left!
CAN'T YOU HEAR ME, TRASH?!
BUT BEFORE YOU DIE, YOU COULD HELP OUT YOUR ORIGINAL, ME, A LITTLE BIT!!
GRRN GRRN
HEY!!
IS PLAYING THERE BY YOURSELF THAT MUCH FUN?
?!
AH!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, BUT...
...I WISH YOU'D SHOW SOME CONSIDERATION FOR YOUR WATCHDOG AND FOLLOW ORDERS LIKE A GOOD SOLDIER.
YOU'RE TOO OLD TO BE GOING THROUGH YOUR REBELLIOUS PHASE, RIGHT?
SHUT UP!!
VWAAA
WHAT'S THE BIG INTEREST IN THAT THING FOR ANYWAY?
STMP
HE'S GOING TO BE DEAD SOON. JUST LET HIM BE.
HEHN...

IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
WAIT THERE!
THE REPLICA IS JUST A PAWN.
FROM THE START THE PLAN WAS TO USE IT AND THROW IT AWAY.
WHAT ABOUT IT?
NOBODY WILL GIVE A DAMN WHETHER A PAWN LIVES OR DIES.
YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE ON BECAUSE OF THAT.
SO YOU SHOULD STOP BEING SO CONCERNED WITH WHAT HAPPENS TO A PAWN!
.....
ゴォォ
GWOOOOO

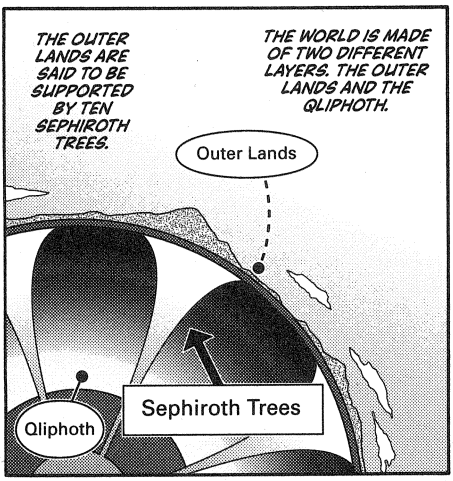
IT MAY BE THAT EVERYTHING HE SAID IS TRUE.
BUT I'VE MADE MY DECISION!
THAT I WOULD FIND OUT THE TRUTH BEHIND WHAT VAN IS HIDING!!
GWOOO
AND TO DO THAT, FIRST I MUST...
REPLICA, COME IN!!
ZHAA AAN
UHRN ...
LUKE?
SLUMP
.....?!
WHOOSH

TWIKK
I AM TAKING ION TO THE ZAO RUINS.
SO MEET US THERE, YOU HIGH-BORN TRASH!
YOU ...
FINALLY! I MADE CONTACT!
COME STEAL BACK ION!
COME TO THE ZAO RUINS!!

CHAPTER 5
SECRET STRIFE 2
ZAO RUINS...
SHHHH
SST
SO THIS IS A DAATHIC SEAL, THAT ONLY FON MASTERS CAN AFFECT.
NOW, BREAK THE SEAL.

KEEN
KEEN
KEEN
GYUUUUUN
キュウウウン

Is the seal gone now?
HUSSSH
I don't notice anything different..
.....
HUUU ...
WOBBLE
よろ
AS I AM SURE YOU ALL KNOW...


THE OUTER LANDS ARE SAID TO BE SUPPORTED BY TEN SEPHIROTH TREES.
THE WORLD IS MADE OF TWO DIFFERENT LAYERS. THE OUTER LANDS AND THE QLIPHOTH.
Outer Lands
Sephiroth Trees
Qliphoth

THIS IS NOT GENERAL KNOWLEDGE, BUT...
THIS PLACE IS PROTECTED BY MULTIPLE SEALS.
YOU CAN HAVE ME OPEN THE DOOR, BUT YOU CANNOT DO ANYTHING WITH IT.

I'D BE WILLING TO BET THAT THIS HEAVILY SEALED DOOR LEADS TO THAT UNDER-WORLD.
AND IT CERTAINLY ISN'T A PLACE WHERE WE COULD AFFECT CHANGE.
So why is Van so set on trying to open it?
WHAT BUSINESS COULD HE HAVE WITH THE PASSAGE RINGS THAT CONTROL THE SEPHIROTH TREES?
IT COULDN'T BE...

.....
NEXT WE HAVE TO GO TO AKZERIUTH. VAN IS WAITING FOR US.
LET'S HEAD BACK TO THE LANDSHIP, AND...
!!
IT LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE IS HERE.

SHKK
YOU... GIVE US ION BACK!!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR SIDE TRIPS LIKE THIS!
SO YOU'RE FINALLY HERE, DULLARD!
OH, SO YOU'VE COME TO FIGHT?
IS THAT COURAGE OR RECKLESS-NESS? LET'S FIND OUT.
YOU'RE NOT GETTING THE FON MASTER. WE STILL HAVE A LOT OF WORK FOR HIM TO DO.
LARGO AND I WILL TAKE THESE.
YOU GUARD THE FON MASTER!
TMP

GRRN
PIERCING LINE!
DMP
HEH HEH... YOU'RE SLOW.
HAAAA!!
KACHANG
KEEN
KEEN
EH ...?!
I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU BACK TO THEM.
Since a Fon Master is the only way to break the seals, I'll return the master and throw a wrench into your plans.
Then we'll see how Van responds... huh?

DMP
!!
WHOOO
!!
OOOO!
TSK...
HEH!
WHAT'D YOU THINK OF THAT?!
HEHN
SHLAKK
ZLIT

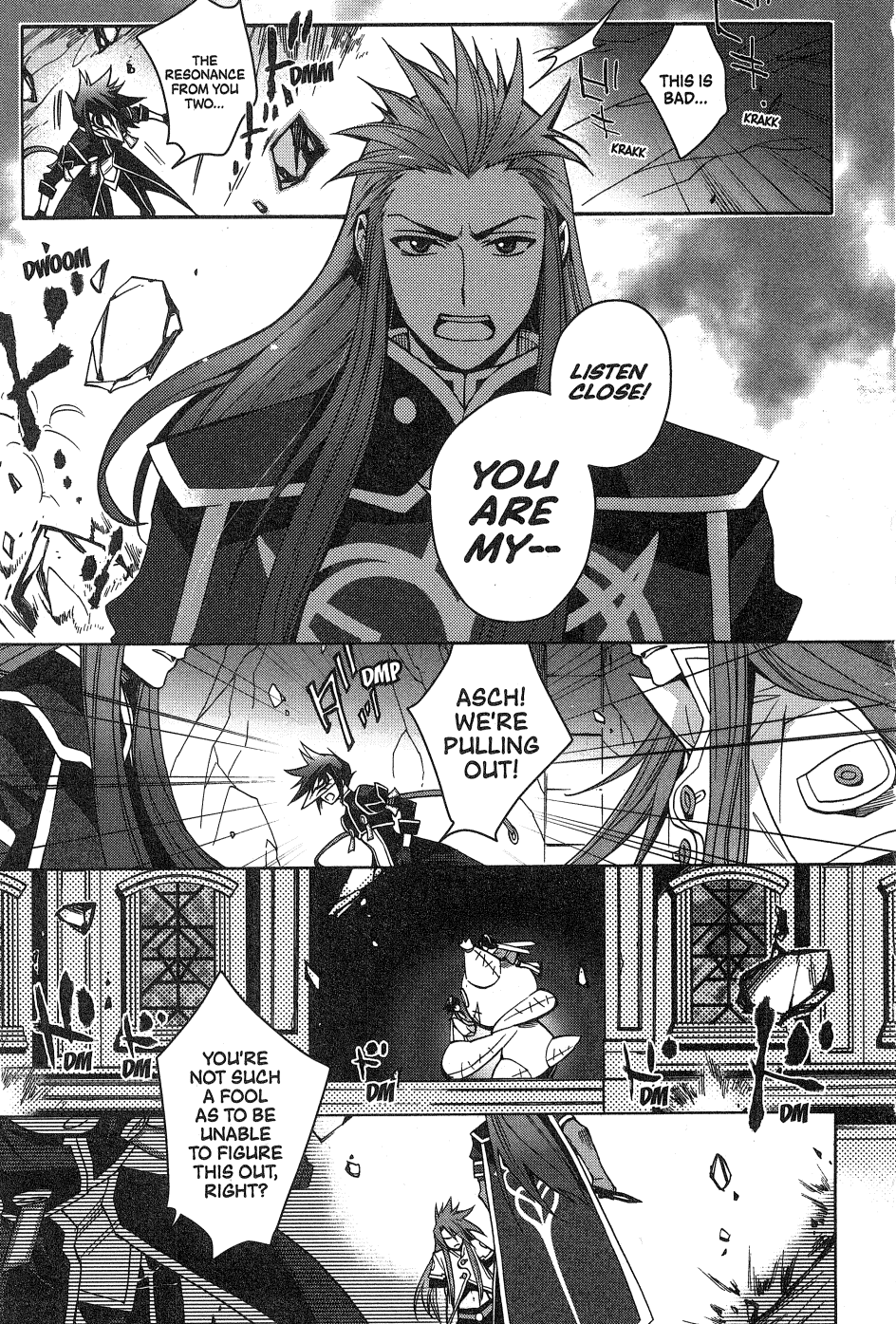
..... YOU CRETIN!
GETTING FULL OF YOURSELF FROM A CHANCE HIT.
DMP
GRIMP
AH!
YOU TRASH ...!!
GH?!
GEE EEN

DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY!
GRRN
GRRN
!!
YOU'RE ...
DAM-MIT!
VUUM
KEEKEEREE
FANG BLADE !!
KAKK

WHY ELSE?! BECAUSE I AM OF THE SAME SCHOOL!
HOW DO YOU KNOW HOW TO DO THAT?!
YOU JUST USED ONE OF MASTER VAN'S TECH-NIQUES!
.....
KRMBL KRMBL
RMMB
RMMB
RMMB
.....YOU JUST...
DMM
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DAMMIT ?!
DMP
VWSSH
ASCH! GET BACK! YOU'RE BUTTING IN WHERE YOU AREN'T WANTED...
THE SAME ...?
YOU AND I ARE...?

KEEN
FANG BLADE !!
RMMB
RMMB
RMMB
HE'S GOING THROUGH THE MOVES, BUT HIS SWORD WORK LACKS SNAP.
HEH
YOUR SWORD POSTURING TELLS ME THAT YOU AREN'T SERIOUS, LITTLE PRINCE.
WH ...
WHAT DID YOU SAY?! I'M RISKING MY LIFE...
HA! YOU FOOL!
TRASH LIKE YOU...
...ARE ONLY ALIVE BECAUSE THE COMPETENT PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP KEEP YOU ALIVE!!

SH--
SHUT UP!!
KAK
GEE-KEEEN
FANG BLADE RAGE!!
TH-THAT'S THE SAME ATTACK...
AND YOU LOOK JUST LIKE ME...
KH... YOU IDIOT!!
YOU STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED IT OUT?!
RRMB
SST
RRMB
JUST WHO THE HELL ARE YOU ANYWAY?!


THE RESONANCE FROM YOU TWO...
DMM
THIS IS BAD...
KRAKK
KRAKK
DWOOM
LISTEN CLOSE!
YOU ARE MY--
DMP
ASCH! WE'RE PULLING OUT!
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
YOU'RE NOT SUCH A FOOL AS TO BE UNABLE TO FIGURE THIS OUT, RIGHT?

GRUNCH
ゴゴ
GM GM
ゴゴ
GM GM
ゴゴ
GM GM
H-HEY ...!
LUKE! WE HAVE TO LEAVE HERE NOW!
HMPH!
SHING
カラ
KRAK
WHOA...
KYAA!
..... THAT WAS CLOSE!!
KRMBL
.....!!
GRASSH

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, NATALIA?
Y-YES... THANK YOU...
..... He...
He doesn't even have the capability of protecting his own fiancée?!
OWWW ...

HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE MY REPLICA!
GM
GM
BUT IN THE END, HE'S JUST A DEFECT!!
ASCH... HURRY!

ON TOP OF THAT, HE'S A POOR EXCUSE FOR A DISCIPLE OF VAN'S...

SHALL WE MAKE OUR ESCAPE AS WELL?
RMMB
RMMBL
KRMBL
KRMBL
GM
GM
GM
DM
DM
DM
DM
A DEAD END ...?

TSK! I NEVER EXPECTED THIS PATH TO BE CLOSED ...
STAND BACK.
ASCH, WHAT ARE YOU...
GWP
KEEEEN
YOU IDIOT!
DON'T YOU DARE--!!
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
FWSH
FWSH
.....!!

GM
GM
GM
GM
GM
GM
RMBL
RMBL
RMBL
YOU HAVE NO COMPLAINTS WITH THIS, DO YOU?
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU...!

YOU TWO ARE PERFECT ISOFONS, SO WHEN YOU AND THE REPLICA COME IN CONTACT, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN!
GWOOO
...ION HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM US, AND WE END UP LIKE THIS!
YOU WENT ON SOME SELFISH CRUSADE, AND NOW...
PAFF
PAFF
I AM NOT THAT DEFECT!
I WOULD NOT LOSE CONTROL IN A SITUATION LIKE THAT!
AND IF YOU LOST CONTROL, WE COULD HAVE BEEN CAUGHT UP IN IT AND ALL BEEN IN TROUBLE!
THEN YOU GO USING HYPER RESONANCE...
GM
THAT POWER TO DESTROY THINGS COMPLETELY!
KRUMBL
GLARE
HA HA
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S THE REMAINS OF THE "LIGHT OF THE SACRED FLAME" FOR YOU.
..... HOW-EVER...

WHATEVER HAPPENS, I'M ORDERED TO PREVENT YOU FROM DYING.
SEE?
IT WAS VAN'S ORDERS.
YOU SEEM TO HAVE FAR MORE INFOR-MATION ON ME THAN YOU SHOULD.
RIGHT?
!
THOSE WERE HIS WORDS.
I JUST DON'T UNDER-STAND YOU.
BUT EVERY SINGLE TIME, YOU GO GETTING STUPIDLY STUBBORN.
THE WHOLE REASON YOU'RE A PART OF THE SEAL BREAKING PLAN IN THE FIRST PLACE...
...IS TO KEEP YOU FROM CHASING YOUR REPLICA AND HEADING TOWARD AKZERIUTH.
AFTER ALL, IT'S ENGULFED IN A POISONOUS CLOUD OF MIASMA.
.....

THEN... VAN...
... WANTED TO KEEP ME IN THE DARK REGARDING THE PLAN IN ORDER TO SAVE ME...?
IF YOU'RE A REAL WARRIOR...
...THEN UNDER-STAND HOW THE GENERAL FEELS!
THUMP
..... WE BROKE THE SEAL, BUT NOTHING UNUSUAL HAPPENED.
"YOU'VE IMPROVED YOUR SKILLS, ASCH!"
"ASCH!"

GWOOOO
ゴオオオ
WAVR...
SO WAS THE ENTIRE REASON I MISTRUSTED VAN...
...WAS JUST A CASE OF OVER-THINKING THE SITUATION...?
SUUU
.....
....!
.....
AW, SHUT UP!

A USELESS SIDE TRIP?! WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
WELL, ION'S SLOWING US DOWN, AND THAT'S A FACT, RIGHT?
I WANT TO MEET UP WITH MASTER VAN AS QUICK AS WE CAN!
むっ
GRR
..... I APOLOGIZE.
THIS WAS BECAUSE I WAS CARELESS.
THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO APOLOGIZE, FON MASTER ION!
..... HUMPH!
HE'S ALREADY DELIVERED HIS PEACE INITIATIVE.
POFF
SO EVEN IF ION ISN'T HERE, AS LONG AS I AM, THERE WON'T BE ANY WAR.

LUKE ?!
I'M SICK OF THIS!
LUKE ...
SIGH ...
STOMP
STOMP
REMEMBER WHO THE GOODWILL AMBASSADOR IS HERE!
WH-WHO ARE YOU CALLING A FOOL?!
KAK
ARE YOU REALLY...
...A FOOL?!
HEY...
TH-THANK YOU...
MASTER ION, YOUR HEALTH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING! YOU MUSTN'T EXERT YOURSELF SO MUCH!

IT WAS A WASTE OF TIME CONNECTING WITH HIM.
.....
WHAT?!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! PITIFUL!
WHAT?! DAMMIT!!
I'M RIGHT, AND THEY KNOW IT!
YEAH, ONLY MASTER VAN KNOWS MY TRUE WORTH...!!
KLNCH
..... JUST YOU WAIT!

I'LL MAKE YOU ALL EAT THOSE WORDS!
IF I USE MY POWER, I CAN NEUTRALIZE THE MIASMA AROUND AKZERIUTH!
WHAT DID HE JUST...
I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND IT ALL, BUT...
...IF I CAN HIT IT WITH THAT HYPER RESONANCE POWER THAT THE MASTER TAUGHT ME...
?!
THE WORLD WILL BE AT PEACE, AND I'LL BE A HERO!!

SHK
SHK
SHK
Using hyper resonance to neutralize the miasma ...?
Is that even possible?
NO... I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A THING!
BESIDES, THERE'S NO WAY A DEFECTIVE LIKE HIM COULD CONTROL HYPER RESONANCE.
SHIVER

WHAT KIND OF LINE DID VAN FEED HIM?
WHAT IS HE TRYING TO MAKE THIS FAILURE DO?!
I HAVE A VERY BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
DAM-MIT!
WHOOSH
GWOOOO
SHKK SHKK
I HOPE I'M WRONG...
...BUT I HAVE TO GET TO AKZERIUTH...!!

CHAPTER 6
LANDSLIDE
.....!
...PLOTTING FOR SOMETHING TERRIBLE TO HAPPEN...!
I COULD BE RIGHT! VAN MAY BE...
AND SINCE I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE, I HAVE TO GO SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES!

SHAAA
SO THIS IS THE MINING TOWN, AKZERIUTH ...
YES, THE MIASMA IS TERRIBLE ...
KRMBL
!
THAT LANDSHIP IS...

THE LANDSHIP SHOULD HAVE ARRIVED BY NOW...
BE SURE THAT TEAR IS RESCUED AND TAKEN FROM THE AREA AS PER THE GENERAL'S ORDERS.
WE WILL HEAD TOWARD OUR NEXT DUTY.
KAK
YES, MA'AM!

THE PLAN IS MOVING FORWARD AT A QUICK PACE.
WE'LL CHANGE THIS STUPID WORLD HELD IN CHAINS BY THE SCORE.
WE WILL WIN BACK THE HUMAN RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF CHOICE!!

THAT'S THE MALKUTH FORCES LANDSHIP WE BOARDED DURING MISSION TO CAPTURE THE ION!
WHAT'S IT DOING HERE...?
KANCH
THAT WOMAN IS...!!
HEY! WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?!
TH-THE COMMANDER OF THE SPECIAL DIVISION!!
?!
WE'RE ACTING UNDER THE GENERAL'S ORDERS!
IF YOU INTERFERE, WE WILL SHOW NO MERCY...
GRIMP
DON'T GIVE ME THAT CRAP!

WOMAN, STEP ASIDE!
!!
I WILL REDUCE IT ALL TO ASHES!
EXPLOSION!
GOO OOO
UWAAGHH!!
WHUD WHUD
NOW, EXPLAIN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

ASCH!
WHY WOULD YOU COME AND SAVE ME...?!
THAT DOESN'T MATTER.
TELL ME WHERE VAN IS!
..... I DON'T KNOW.
MY BROTHER ...
MY BROTHER IS PLANNING TO DO SOME-THING AWFUL...
THE ADVANCE TROOPS THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN WITH MY BROTHER ARE ALL DEAD!
AND HE TRIED TO FORCE ME AWAY FROM HERE AGAINST MY WILL...
VAN, YOU BASTARD! YOU DECIDED THAT ONLY YOUR SISTER SHOULD BE SPARED?!

WHAT IS MY BROTHER TRYING TO DO?!
"I WILL MAKE USE OF LUKE AND PUT MY PLANS INTO ACTION AT AKZERIUTH."
"NEXT WE HAVE TO GO TO AKZERIUTH. VAN IS WAITING FOR US."
"IF I CAN HIT IT WITH THAT HYPER RESONANCE POWER THAT THE MASTER TAUGHT ME..."
.....
The replica is going to use hyper resonance and obliterate the town...?
VAN SEEMS TO WANT AKZERIUTH WIPED FROM THE MAP.
EH ...?!

I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN!
I'LL STOP HIM!!
ASCH!
WAIT!!
I'M NOT GOING TO LET HIM MAKE A FOOL OF MY OWN REPLICA!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
TEAR'S BEEN GONE A LONG TIME.
I HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN A TRACE OF THE ADVANCE TROOPS...
WHERE COULD GENERAL GRANTS BE...?
MYU?
WHERE DID MASTER GO TO?
DMP
DMP
DM
DM
DM
DM

WHERE IS VAN, DAMMIT!
HEY, TRASH!
KEEE... EEH
WHERE ARE YOU NOW?!
GH... YOU?! AGAIN, YOU'RE TRYING TO...
JUST ANSWER ME!
WHAT IS IT, LUKE?
GULP
SO YOU'RE ALREADY WITH HIM?!
NO, NOTHING ...
LISTEN, AND LISTEN GOOD!
SHUT UP! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR A WORD YOU HAVE TO SAY!!
DON'T TRY TO ORDER ME AROUND !!
WHOOSH

HEY! LISTEN TO ME!!
.....?
THAT DOOR IS SEALED... SO THAT'S ANOTHER DOOR TO SEPHIROTH?
If he destroys the Sephiroth Tree holding up the land, it's possible that he can make the entire town crumble down!
COULD THAT BE VAN'S TRUE GOAL?!
BUT TOO BAD FOR YOU, VAN! YOU NEED ION TO BREAK THE SEAL, AND HE'S NOWHERE AROUND!
HE'S SAFELY BACK HOME IN DAATH PROTECTED BY HIS FON MASTER GUARDIAN ...
FON MASTER ION, YOU CAME TO ME ON YOUR OWN?
YES... AFTER DELIVERING THE PEACE INITIATIVE...
I WAS ANXIOUS TO WITNESS WITH MY OWN EYES THE RELIEF EFFORTS THAT WILL CONCLUDE THE PEACE PROCESS.

EH?
A LAUDABLE THOUGHT.
AND IT SUITS ME PERFECTLY.
ION ...?!
HERE?
BUT FOR WHAT REASON? THE RELIEF EFFORTS ...
DO IT FOR ME, ION!!
YOU WILL OPEN THIS DOOR FOR ME, YES?
No!
Don't go in there!
GYUUUUN
EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT IF WE JUST DO AS THE MASTER SAYS!!

POHHHN
YOU'LL WIND UP DOING SOMETHING THAT CAN NEVER BE UNDONE...!!
WHOA!
THIS PLACE IS AMAZING!!
POHHHN
LUKE! COME HERE AND BEGIN CONCENTRATING YOUR WILL.
YES, SIR!
THIS IS THE PASSAGE RING THAT CONTROLS THE SEPHIROTH ...
VAN?!

DON'T WORRY, ION! I CAN NEUTRALIZE THE MIASMA IN ONE SHOT WITH THIS!!
"NEUTRALIZE?" IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?
I JUST GOTTA CONCENTRATE MY WILL, RIGHT?
EXACTLY, LUKE. I AM WITH YOU, SO YOU CAN SIMPLY RELAX.
KEEEEEE
VZZT
VZZT
VHUUU
EH? WHAT'S THIS ...?

KEEEEE
イイイイ
LET'S STOP HIM FROM DOING THIS, VAN!!
SOMETHING IS WRONG! THIS IS DANGEROUS!
YES... JUST KEEP CONCENTRATING.
NOW... FOLLOW MY WORDS AS YOU RELEASE YOUR POWER...
"You stupid replica, Luke!"

GEEEEN
EH ...?
PAA AAM
UWAAH!

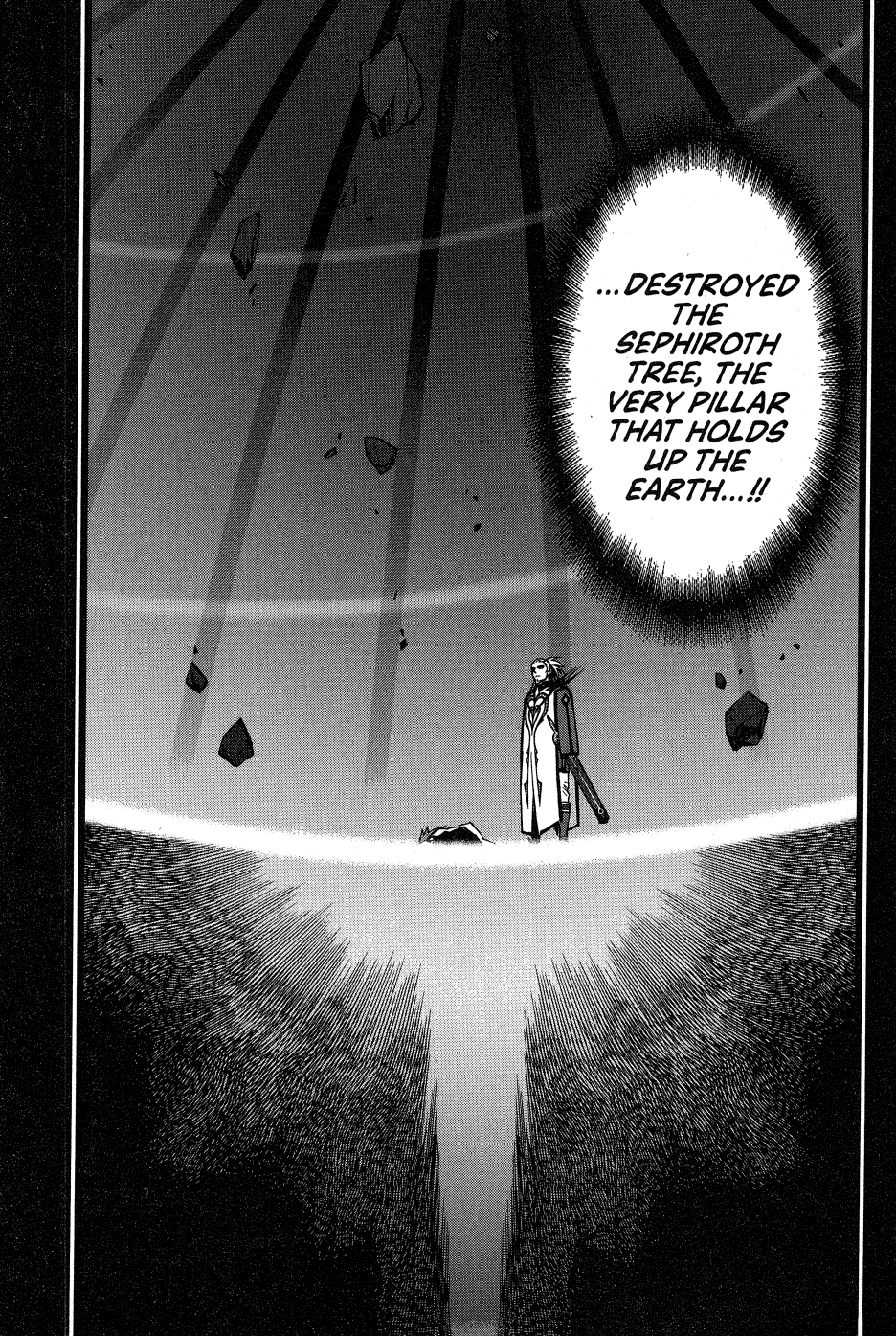
RMMB
OH, NO!!
WHAT?
AN EARTH-QUAKE ?!
RMMB RMMB
UNF...
WHAMM
ゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴ CM
ゴゴ CM
EH?
HUH? IS THE MIASMA NEUTRAL-IZED?
ゴゴ CM
WHAT'S... GOING ON...?
ゴゴ CM
MASTER ...?

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU WERE OF ANY USE TO ME, REPLICA!
HEH ...
HA HA HA...
DMP
DMP
DMP
DMP

I'LL STOP IT...
DMP
DMP
I WILL...
DMP
DMP

WHOOSH
VAN...
GM
GM
GM
DAMMIT ...!
I DIDN'T MAKE IT IN TIME...!!

ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
GM
GM
GM
GM
ASCH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
MY REPLICA...


...DESTROYED THE SEPHIROTH TREE, THE VERY PILLAR THAT HOLDS UP THE EARTH...!!

AN EARTH-QUAKE? IT'S SHAKING TOO MUCH!!
CAN YOU STAND UP?
YEAH ...
IT'S DANGEROUS OUT THERE. COME INSIDE...
DADDY, I'M SCARED!
ZUMMM
KRAKK
KRAKK

DMM
GYAA!
RMBL
URNN...
UWAAAH!!
DM DM DM
WHY THIS TOWN...?
WHY KILL THIS MANY PEOPLE...?!
HELP ME...
GM
GM
GM
GM

VAN!!
I STRICTLY ORDERED YOU *NOT* TO COME HERE!
NEXT IT'LL BE *THIS* PLACE FALLING APART.
TOO BAD FOR YOU, HUH? I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE.
DM DM DM
I BROUGHT YOUR LITTLE SISTER WITH ME. THE ONE YOU TRIED TO SAVE.
WHAT ...?!
PWEET
VWAA

GRMP
WH...?
LET GO OF ME!!
THOK
THOK
I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO BE LOST HERE.
DON'T GIVE ME YOUR CRAP!!
GWOO
THE REPLICA WILL DIE HERE IN YOUR STEAD.
EXACTLY ACCORDING TO PLAN!
"ACCORDING TO PLAN"?!

I HAVE...
...NO INTENTION OF SAVING MYSELF LET ALONE LEAVING THOUSANDS OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS OF THIS TOWN TO DIE!
IF THEY'RE BURIED HERE, I WILL BE TOO!!
SO YOU'RE A TRAITOR, BROTHER...!!
DMP
DMP
DMP
LUKE !!
MASTER ION?!
MYSTEARICA, EVENTUALLY YOU TOO WILL UNDERSTAND...
...THE IDIOCY AND UGLINESS INCORPORATED INTO THIS WORLD!
FWAFF
YOU MUST LIVE TO WITNESS ITS PASSAGE!
FWAFF

FWAFF
YOU HAVE A FONIC HYMN! USE IT!
BRO-THER !!
THIS IS BAD! THE TUNNEL IS CLOSING!
GM
AKZERIUTH IS FALLING IN A LAND-SLIDE ...!!
GO TO TEAR'S SIDE!
DM
ZUUMM
..... HURRY!
FWAFF
.....!

DOOOM!
GWOO
OOOO
HAVE YOU CALMED YOURSELF, ASCH?
..... WHAT WERE YOU THINKING...?! WHY WOULD YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS...?!
TO RIGHT WHAT IS WRONG IN A WORLD OF PETTY CREATURES.
THE PEOPLE ARE BLIND IN THEIR BELIEF IN THE SCORE.
THEY MUST BE MADE TO SEE THEIR OWN IDIOCY!
THIS BAREST CRACK WILL DO NOTHING TO SHAKE YULIA'S SCORE.
THE WORLD NEEDS MORE REFORMATION ...
YOU DEFIED THE SCORE AND LIVED! YOU SHALL BE A SYMBOL OF IT!
..... ME?!
ASCH!

UNLESS THE SCORE WAS COMPLETELY RUINED YOU WOULD HAVE HAD NO FUTURE!
YOU HAD TO LIVE AS SOMEONE ELSE. EVEN IF IT MEANT DISCARDING YOUR VERY HOME AND PRINCESS NATALIA...
!!
KLNCH
YOU ARE ALSO ONE CHAINED BY THE SCORE!
YOU WERE AN IMPRISONED PAWN OF KIMLASCA HOPING THEY COULD USE YOUR HYPER RESONANCE.
AND IN ORDER TO SEE THE SCORE FULFILLED, YOU WERE SLATED TO DIE HERE.
THE ONE WHO SAVED YOU FROM THAT FATE WAS ME!
YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THAT, HAVE YOU?
IT'S TRUE THAT I...

...WANTED TO CHANGE A COUNTRY... A WORLD THAT WAS...
...CLINGING TO THE SCORE!!
HOWEVER...
AND I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE YOU WERE ABLE TO DO JUST THAT...
GM
GM
GM
A REPLICA IS SIMPLY A PAWN TO BE USED AND DISCARDED!
ONLY THE HYPER RESONANCE OF THE ORIGINAL CAN CUT OPEN A BRAND NEW WORLD!
YES, ASCH!
TOGETHER YOU AND I CAN ACCOMPLISH THAT!

CAN ONE ACTUALLY RIGHT A WORLD USING TACTICS LIKE THIS?!
FWAFF
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS FOLLOW MY ORDERS.
UNDER-STAND, ASCH?
.....
NEXT WE SHALL TAKE DOWN THE CITADEL, SAINT BINAH...
THE WORDS ...
KLENCH
YOU WILL BE THE TRUE HERO!!
VAN...
HOW CAN YOU SEE THAT DESTRUCTION AND SMILE...?

THE WORDS YOU'RE SAYING TO ME NOW...
...ARE EXACTLY THE SAME WORDS YOU USED ON THE REPLICA, AREN'T THEY?!
GRNCH
GRNCH
GVAA
GVAA
I BELIEVED IN THOSE IDEALS YOU SPOKE OF...!!
DAMN YOU!!
WAIT, ASCH!
ASCH !!
GWOOO
I...
QLIP-HOTH...
SO THERE WAS A WORLD LIKE THIS UNDERNEATH THE EARTH'S SURFACE?

YOU MEAN WE'RE THE ONLY ONES LEFT ALIVE...?
THEY ALL SUNK INTO A MUD-LIKE MIASMA-FILLED BOG.
IF IT WEREN'T FOR TEAR'S FONIC HYMN, WE TOO WOULD BE...
I AM RESPON-SIBLE.
IF I HADN'T CARELESSLY OPENED THE SEALED DOOR...
IT'S TRUE THAT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO OPENED THE DOOR, BUT THE ONE...
IT ISN'T MY FAULT!!
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING WRONG ...!!
.....
LEAVE HIM.

DEEP WITHIN YULIA CITY HERE IS THE MAYORAL MANSION.
WE MAY FIND OUT SOMETHING WORTH-WHILE.
LET'S GO MEET MY GRANDFATHER, THE MAYOR.
NOBODY EVER TOLD ME THAT MY HYPER RESONANCE ...
...COULD DO ANYTHING LIKE THIS...
MUTTER
I WAS JUST TRYING TO GET RID OF THE MIASMA!
MASTER... MASTER TOLD ME TO DO IT ...
LUKE!! ARE YOU GOING TO STAY HERE FOREVER?!
EVERYONE ELSE HAS GONE ON.
EVERY-BODY'S JUST GOING TO END UP CRITICIZING ME AGAIN!
I DON'T WANNA GO.
TRASH TO THE LAST, HUH? YOU DEFECT!

ASCH?! HOW DID YOU GET DOWN HERE...
M-MASTER? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MASTER?!
HA! HE BETRAYS YOU, AND HE'S STILL, "MASTER"?
YOU'RE SUCH A FOOL.
YOU IDIOT! SHOOTING OFF THE HYPER RESONANCE WITHOUT A MOMENT'S THOUGHT!
SHICK
But in the end, I spent seven years under Van's influence...
Depending entirely..
...on Van!

JUST LOOKING AT YOU MAKES MY SKIN CRAWL...
I SHOULD JUST KILL YOU HERE!
GRUMP
?!
WAIT, ASCH!
DOING THAT WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING!
I HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO KILL HIM!
HE'S MY REPLICA, AFTER ALL.
WH...?! "REPLICA," WHAT'S THAT MEAN?!

..... COME TO THINK OF IT, MASTER SAID...
HA!
ALLOW ME TO ILLUMINATE YOU, "LUKE"...
...AS TO WHY YOU AND I SHARE THE EXACT SAME FACE!
SST
YOU MEAN YOU NEVER NOTICED...?!
EH ...?
I WAS BORN NOBILITY OF BATICUL.
SEVEN YEARS AGO, I WAS KIDNAPPED AND USED AS A PART OF VAN'S SCHEMES.
YOU... DON'T MEAN...
YES!
YOU ARE A DEFECTIVE HUMAN COPY OF ME!

YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A REPLICA!
THAT'S A LIE...
.....!!
GRIMP
LIAR! LIAR! LIAR!
DON'T LIE TO ME!!
WHOOM

I'LL ERASE HIM FROM EXISTENCE...
YOUR SWORD SKILLS AND YOUR BRAIN POWER...
A DEFECTIVE COPY LIKE YOU COULD NEVER BE A MATCH FOR THE ORIGINAL!!
URN ...
PITIFUL!
TO HAVE EVERYTHING STOLEN FROM ME BY THIS CRETIN!
YOU DAMNED DEFECT!!
DON'T DO IT...
LUKE!!

Seven years ago...
...that was when my life changed forever.
THAT WAS WHEN...
...MY ENTIRE LIFE AS "LUKE" WAS STOLEN FROM ME!!

HUH?
GRUNCH
WH--
WHO'RE YOU CALLIN' A THIEF?! DON'T GIVE ME THAT CRAP!
AND BESIDES, WHY DO I GOTTA PAY FOR SOME-THING LIKE THIS?!
LUKE
IN LINE FOR SUCCESSION TO THE THRONE OF THE KINGDOM OF KIMLASCA-LANVALDEAR.
DON'T GO PICKING ON EVERYTHING I SAY AND DO!!
I'VE BEEN CHOSEN TO BECOME A HERO, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW!!

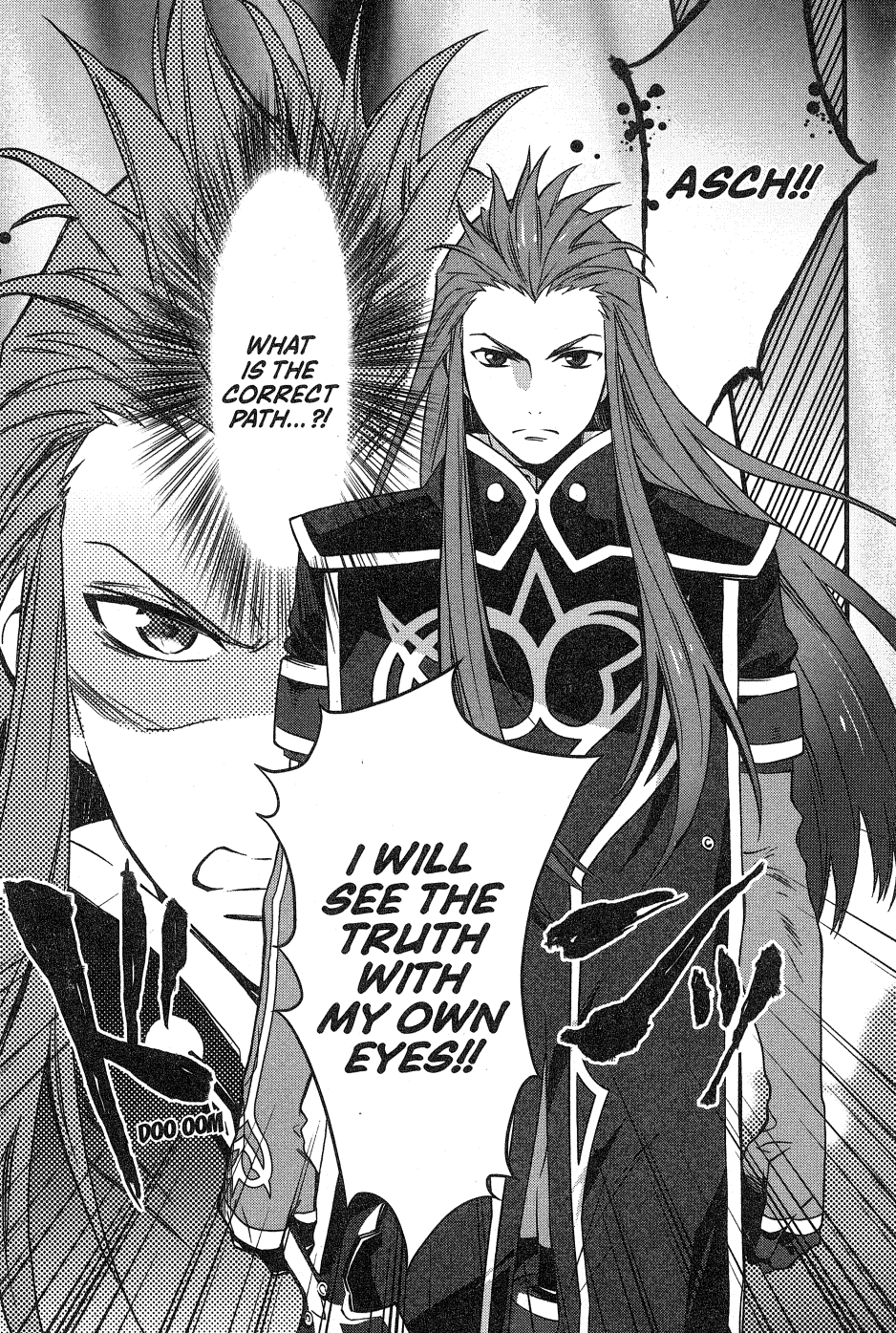
DO YOU REMEMBER OUR PROMISE?
ASCH...
...YOU NEVER CHANGED, DID YOU?
NATALIA
THE ROYAL PRINCESS OF KIMLASCA LANVALDEAR AND LUKE'S BETROTHED.
PLEASE, TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF ...!

DON'T LET THE GENERAL DOWN!!
ASCH!!
LARGO
COMMANDER OF THE 1ST DIVISION.
ARIETTA
COMMANDER OF THE 3RD DIVISION.
DIST
COMMANDER OF THE 2ND DIVISION.
LEGRETTA
COMMANDER OF THE 4TH DIVISION.
I'M PRETTY SICK OF THIS ROTTEN WORLD.
HA HA HA! YOU ARE TOO, RIGHT?
SYNC
COMMANDER OF THE 5TH DIVISION, THE ORACLE KNIGHTS IN THE ORDER OF LORELEI.

HE'S TRASH, BUT THEN WHY...!
I'M HEADED OUT TO MEET HIM.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT LUKE.
SEE EEN
WHOA!!
TSK!
PATHETIC!!
DAMMIT ...
YOU DEFECTIVE PIECE OF TRASH!!

Why..!
.....
Plan?
MY PLAN IS PROCEED-ING APACE!
THIS WORLD IS HAVING ITS STRINGS PULLED BY YULIA'S SCORE.
Van...
...just what are you plotting?!
WE MUST CHANGE THE NATURAL LAWS THAT GOVERN OUR LIVES!!
VAN
SUPREME GENERAL OF THE ORACLE KNIGHTS OF THE ORDER OF LORELEI.

AND FOR THAT PURPOSE...
...I WILL NEED YOUR STRENGTH!
LUKE ...!!
There is very little time left
GANN
YOU BASTARD!
YOU'RE JUST A LOWLY MEMBER OF THE SIX GOD GENERALS, AND YET YOU DEFY ME?!
But I...


ASCH!!
WHAT IS THE CORRECT PATH...?!
I WILL SEE THE TRUTH WITH MY OWN EYES!!
DOO OOM

ONE MORE LONE HERO IN A BATTLE WITH FATE
RIN NIJYO

At the same time as the popular game "Tales of the Abyss" was being made into an anime, it was also adapted for manga... The manga you readers hold in your hands now is the product of that plan.

When one wants to adapt a work for manga, there are certain things that are required. The first is the obvious -- knowledge of the original work. One must play the game that is the foundation for the work until it begs for mercy, and watch the anime to death, and wind up completely immersed within the world (lol).

And this time, the main character is...Asch the Bloody.
We came up with the cool idea that this manga will follow the same timeline as the anime; only rather than telling the story from the original main character, Luke, we'd tell it from Asch's viewpoint. That was the concept behind this manga right from the start.

So obviously, when I played the game or watched the anime, I was constantly trying to get the feel of the world the way Asch would feel it. Even when Asch is not on screen, I would watch the scene wondering what would Asch be doing at that time. And even now, I'm still wandering the world right alongside him.

I think that the Asch I saw is the same one that probably quite a few fans also saw.. He's a character overflowing with a certain charm. Asch, with his strong, resolute attitude, can come off as cold at first glance, but of course, that isn't the whole story.

And so this manga looks at what Asch thought and what kind of actions he took in this world; also what he decided and what he felt. In other words, this work tries to explore to the furthest extent the story of Asch that the game and anime didn't have time to get into. It is only thanks to the great support from everyone in the staff of both the game and the anime that Asch's story has now begun. This first volume could be called a prelude. From here on, we tell the main story of how Asch deals with his own destiny and the destiny of the entire world.

It was thanks to the skills of the artist, Saitou-san, that life was breathed into this story. And as the pace picks up, we will see a clearer vision through these drawings of the life of a human being that goes by the name of Asch. And I wonder what you, the reader, will be feeling as you pass your eyes over these drawings...
So it is with wishes that you enjoy what you read that I continue my journeys with Asch.

AFTERWORD

あとがき。

■ Nice to meet you. I am Hana Saitou.

■ This is a manga adaptation of the anime version of "Tales of the Abyss." However, we changed the point of view from that of the game and anime, and drew Asch as the main character. I would be happy if you read it as one possibility of the many Asch stories that one can imagine.

■ As one watches the anime or plays the game, there are quite a few questions that arise regarding Asch. "What was he thinking when he said those words?" "What was Asch doing when this scene happened?" And so I began drawing an Asch manga.
We pestered the people at Sunrise making the anime, and put loads of questions to the makers of the games, and from their answers came revelation after revelation that became the basis of each chapter of the manga series! I want to thank them for taking good care of us. It's my thought that it would be great if I could show a side of Asch that they weren't able to show in the other media.

■ So what kind of changes are in store for Asch and Luke? What is Van's goal? Please pick up the next volume too!

HANA SAITO 2009

The above sketches were drawn before the manga started. Both the drawings here and the preview manga included as a bonus are, I feel, a little different than the way I'm drawing now.

CHARACTER INTRODUCTIONS

LUKE

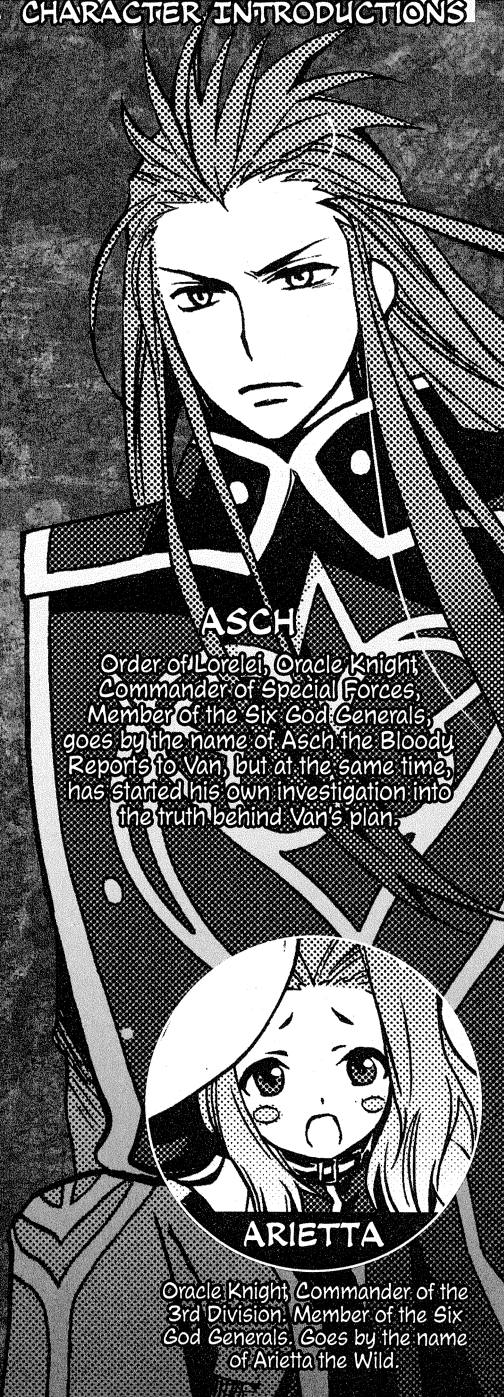
Only son of the Duke fon Fabre. After returning to the Kingdom of Kimlasca, he is sent to Akzeriuth as a Goodwill Ambassador. However...

LARGO

Oracle Knight, Commander of the 1st Division. Member of the Six God Generals. Goes by the name of Largo the Black Lion.

SYNC

Oracle Knight, Commander of the 5th Division. Member of the Six God Generals. Goes by the name of Sync the Tempest.



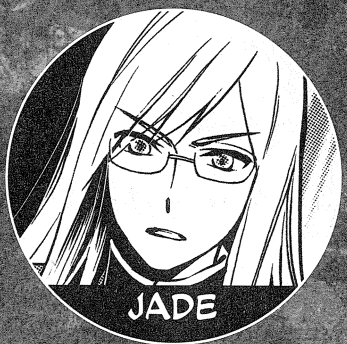
ASCH

Order of Lorelei, Oracle Knight Commander of Special Forces, Member of the Six God Generals, goes by the name of Asch the Bloody. Reports to Van, but at the same time, has started his own investigation into the truth behind Van's plan.

ARIETTA

Oracle Knight, Commander of the 3rd Division. Member of the Six God Generals. Goes by the name of Arietta the Wild.

TALES OF THE ABYSS, ASCH THE BLOODY:

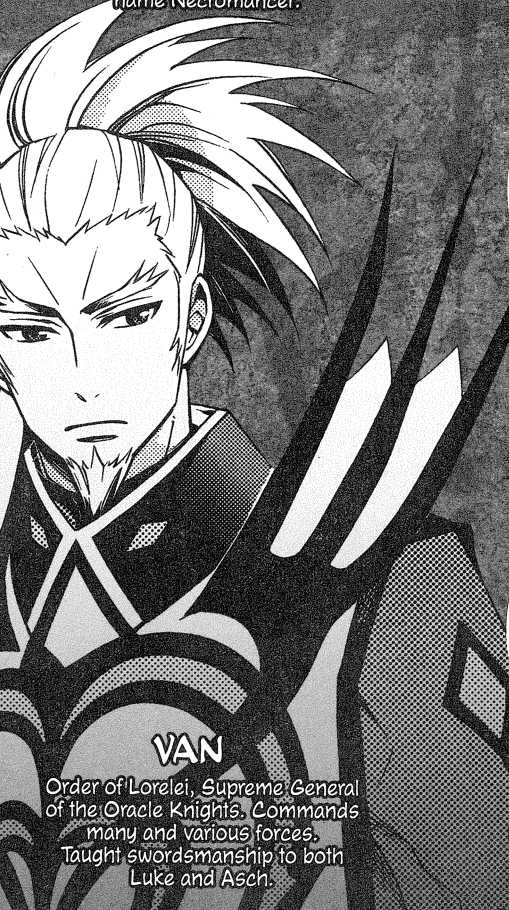


JADE

Commander of the 3rd Division of the Malkuth Imperial Forces. Colonel. Is often called by the name Necromancer.

ION

Guiding Force for the Order of Lorelei, Fon Master. Bore a peace initiative from the Malkuth Empire to the Kingdom of Kimlasca in order to see peace preserved.

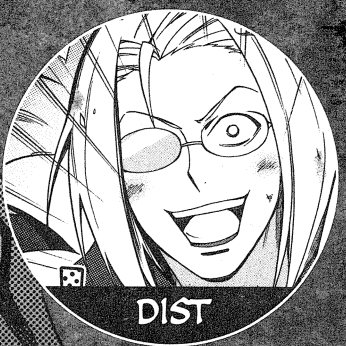


VAN

Order of Lorelei, Supreme General of the Oracle Knights. Commands many and various forces. Taught swordsmanship to both Luke and Asch.

LEGRETTA

Oracle Knight, Commander of the 4th Division. Member of the Six God Generals. Goes by the name of Legretta the Quick.



DIST

Oracle Knight, Commander of the 2nd Division. Member of the Six God Generals. Calls himself Dist the Rose. All others know him by the name of Dist the Demon.

TALES OF THE ABYSS

テイルズオブジアビス

ASCH THE BLOODY

1

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SCRIPT BY RIN NIJYO

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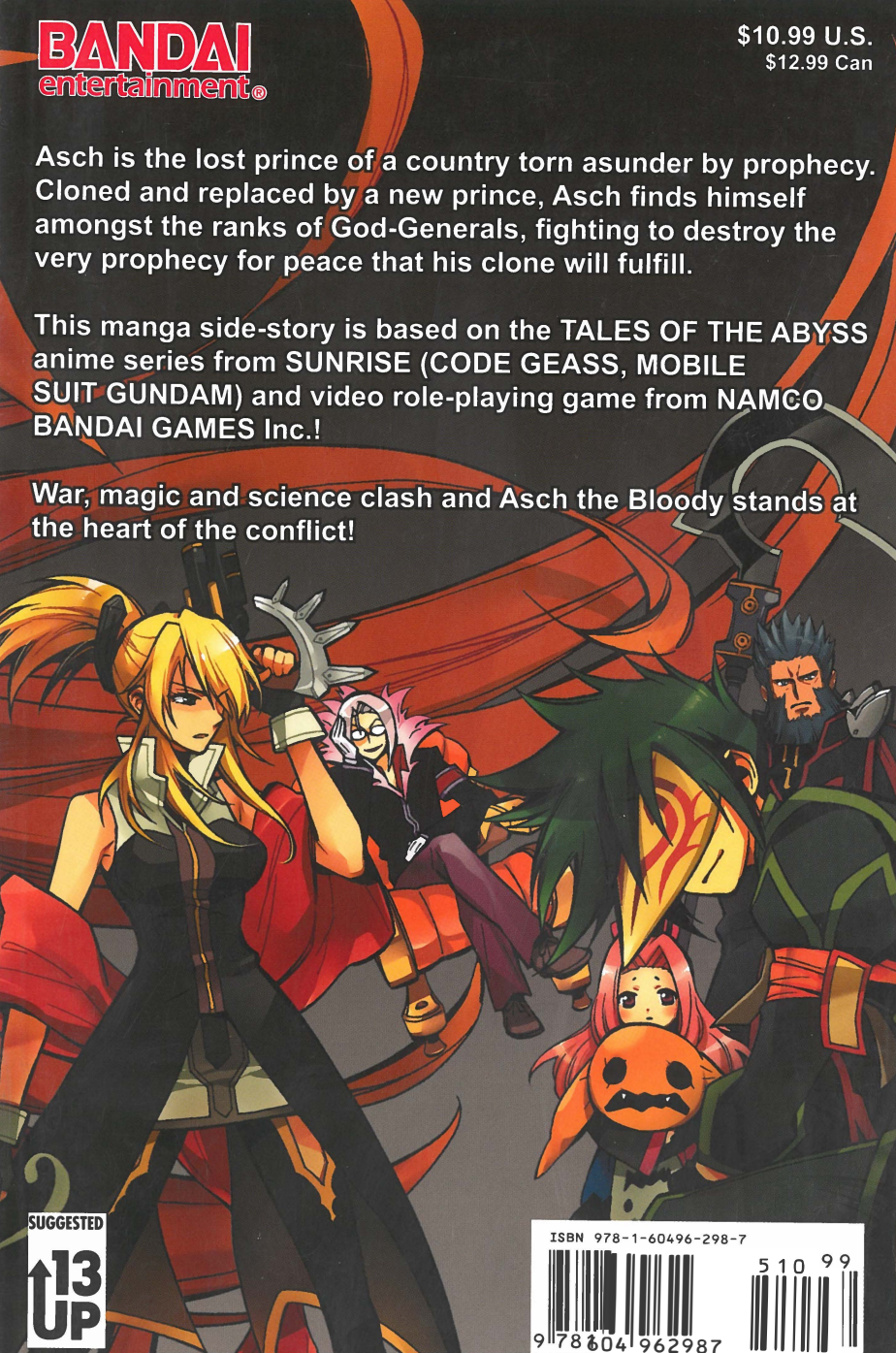
War, magic and science clash and Asch the Bloody stands at the heart of the conflict!



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